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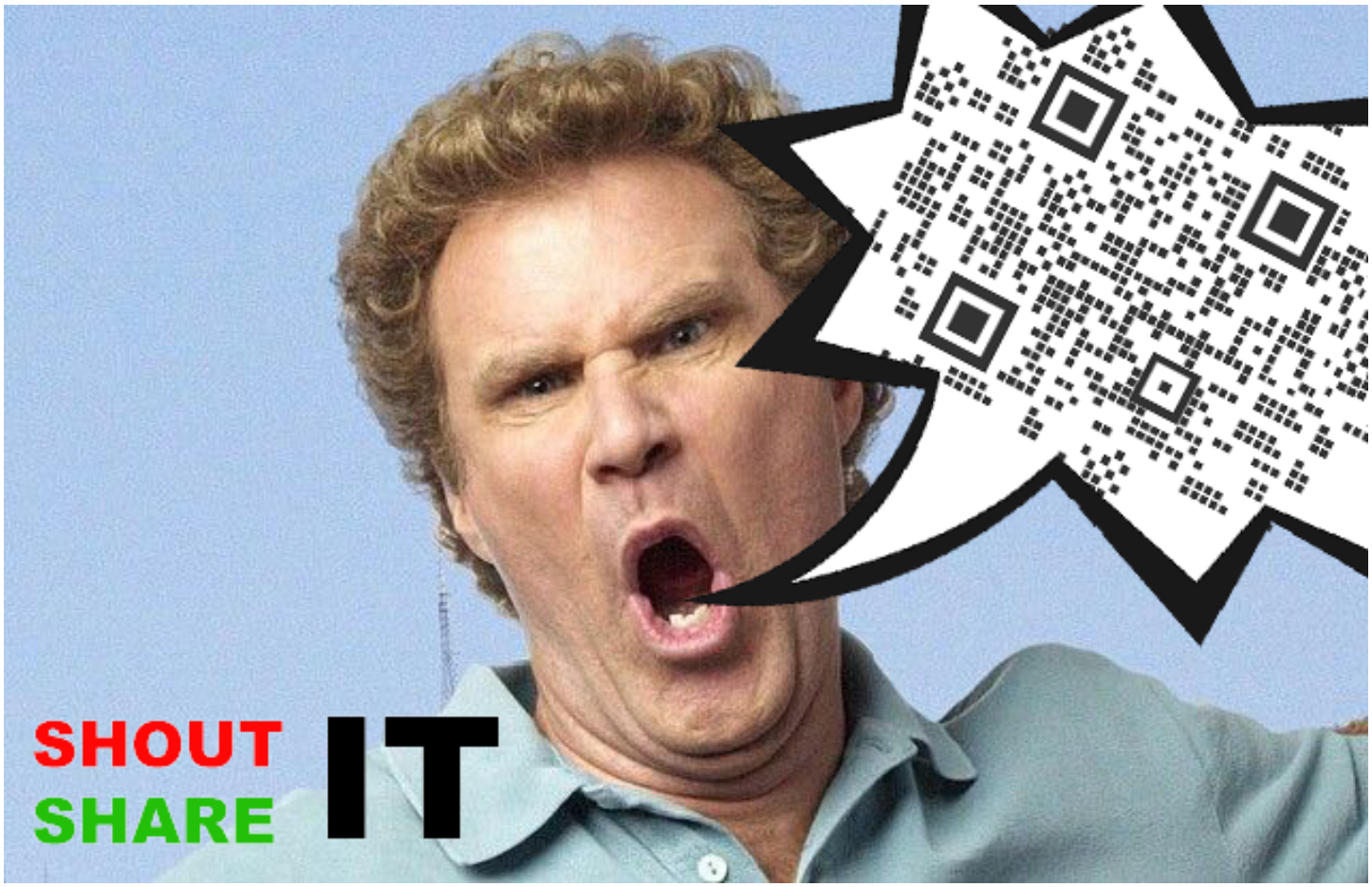
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January 3, 1977

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"UNEARNED INCREMENT" : TO TAX OR NOT TO TAX

by Bill Shephard
Regional Planner
Peace River Regional Planning Commission

In the past two or three years the term "unearned increment" has been coined to refer to the speculative capital gains that have accrued on land that is strategically located for development. Like various other terms that come into popular usage and become a cliche, this particular one has assumed a certain connotation that appeals to some groups and is violently rejected by others. "Unearned increment" suggests capital gain that is not "earned" and therefore is not deserved by the person or corporation receiving it. It has been suggested that this profit should be taxed away completely; that it should be recaptured by public bodies. One of the recommendations for national action coming out of the U.N Habitat Conference in Vancouver insists on this.

The speculative profits on land sales have been high in the thirty years since the second world war. Our population has grown quickly and accompanying this fast growth has been an equally spectacular migration from the countryside, and from smaller towns and villages, to major centres. The bigger the centre, the more population pressure has occured. In Alberta this trend has been particularly evident in Calgary and Edmonton although Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer and Grande Prairie have also been effected. Large influxes of population have meant large demands for residential, industrial and commercial land. Accompanying these large demands have been restrictions that have tended to limit the supply of such land. Thus a "sellers' market" has been established for whatever land has been available, and prices have spriralled with this "limited supply-unlimited market" situation. The housing market, and the commercial and industrial building market have been able to absorb almost any price that was asked for raw land. Thus, land that was acquired by investors in strategic locations has increased in value exponentially.

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"Unearned Increment": To Tax Or Not To Tax (cont'd)

In the past year or so there has been pressure from certain groups to "recover" this speculative profit for public use; to tax away all profits that are made in land sales. This reaction has been precipitated by the exceedingly high land prices and correspondingly high housing prices that have dominated urban real estate markets. As usual, this reaction has set in after the fact, after prices have skyrocketed, after the damage has presumably been done.

One of the facts that most of the voices crying for "unearned increment recovery" tend to ignore is the fact that such profits are taxed and taxed very highly by income tax and corporate tax. It is unfortunate from the municipalities' point of view that this tax goes to the federal government and does not help the municipalities deal with the fiscal problems of urban expansion (but certainly it is not the land dealers' fault). Another fact that is ignored is that much of the money earned by land dealing is plowed into developments in the communities where land profits are made. This profit goes into equity financing and working capital for various projects. If the profits dry up or are siphoned off for "the public good," very few buildings will be constructed and housing shortages will be even more pronounced than they are today.

Another positive factor of spiralling prices and increasing urban land values is the force of decentralization that comes about. If housing is too expensive in a major urban centre, presumably people will move to smaller centres where land and housing prices are comparatively low. Similarly, industries will move into more reasonably priced land in smaller communities where employees' wage demands will not need to be so high to cover high urban "standards of living". Perhaps the great migration of Canadians to the city will turn around, or at least slow down.

Innovative forms of housing and realistic development standards may be the result of higher land and building prices. Do we all need 1500 square feet of living space

"Unearned Increment": To Tax Or Not To Tax (cont'd)

on a quarter acre lot served by paved streets forty feet wide, that are used only by one or preferably two automobiles? If we do, we are going to have to pay through the nose for it. Perhaps mobile homes are the answer, or condominiums, or apartments. Perhaps new forms of dwellings will come about to meet the shortages if standards are more flexible and responsive to public needs.

Coining phrases such as "unearned increment", and branding individuals and corporations who are in the development and building business, as bandits, will not solve any problems. This process is already driving considerable development capital out of Ontario to the United States. We cannot afford to do this in Alberta. It would be far better to attack the problem by supplying more reasonably priced land for all types of development in the smaller centres of Alberta, and by rethinking the types of homes and services we actually need.

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BE CAREFUL WHEN REDUCING BEEF COW WINTER RATIONS

If you are planning to cut production costs by reducing your beef cow rations this winter, be sure you do not reduce your income more than you reduce your costs, advises D. B. Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer.

He points out that to obtain maximum income, a cow-calf operator has to keep his weaning percentages and calf weaning weights high. In the past few years feeders have been reluctant to feed light calves because of the uncertainty of the market and because of high feed grain prices. Hence light calves have been discounted.

The heaviest calf in a herd may weight as much as 200 pounds more than the lightest calf at weaning time. Often these heavier calves are born earlier in the season than the lighter ones because their dams were bred and conceived earlier, and, therefore, they have a longer time to gain weight before they are weaned.

Although many nutrients will be affected by reduced feeding during the winter, a reduced energy intake will probably have the greatest effect on the performance of a cow and her calf. Any significant reduction in energy intake below what is required by the cow from a month before her calf is born until it is three months old can result in a lighter birth weight for the calf and a lighter weaning weight.

In addition to requiring a high level of energy for the growth of her unborn calf and for milk production, a cow requires energy for good reproductive performance. Hence, any reduction of energy below her requirements during the above four-month period will result in slower rebreeding and a poorer conception rate on the part of most cows.

"Reducing winter feed," says Mr. Karren, "will certainly cut costs, but a cow-calf producer has to be very careful that he does not jeopardize his future income position to the detriment of his overall operation."

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RED CLOVER CUTS LAMB BIRTHS

Some red clover species reduce the number of lambs born if fed to ewes at mating time, according to a report received by Alberta Agriculture from the Grassland Research Institute at Hurley, Berkshire, England.

The effect of red clover, either fresh or ensiled, when fed to ewes during mating time, was threefold, says the report.

Effect On Number Of Lambs Born Per Ewe

The number of lambs born per ewe lambing was reduced. The mean litter size of the Scottish halfbred ewes grazing perennial ryegrass at the time of mating was 2.35, 2.30 and 2.24 in the three years of the experiement. The corresponding litter size for ewes grazing red clover at mating was 1.60, 1.67 and 1.78.

This reduction was caused, not by a decline in ovulation rate, but by interference with sperm transport, which reduced the fertilization rate.

Effect On The Spread Of Lambing

Because of the interference with fertilization, ewes were liable to return to the ram several times before they become pregnant. This, in turn, gave rise to a rather protracted lambing period.

Effect On The Lambing Percentage

Work in Australia has shown that ewes grazing oestrogenic red or subterranean clover over a number of years are likely to have an increase in ewe and lamb mortality. This was thought to be caused by the formation of cysts in the uterus.

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However, the British report says this adverse effect on reproduction can be avoided by not grazing the ewes on red clover at the time of mating. It was also found that when the quantity of red clover eaten at the time of mating was reduced, the effect on reproduction was much less marked.

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EFFECTS OF BIOTIN ON FATTY LIVER DISORDERS IN BROILERS

There has been much concern recently over the incidence and control of a disorder in broiler chicks known as fatty liver and kidney syndrome (FLKS). Mortality rates range from one or 2 per cent to as high as 30 per cent.

As its name implies, one of the principal symptoms of the disorder is the increased deposition of fat in the liver and kidneys of broilers. Affected birds become lethargic, and death follows within a few hours. Mortality usually occurs in birds that are 18 to 23 days old, but it may occur at any time during the growing period.

According to J. J. Serrano, research findings at the University of Alberta indicate that outbreaks of FLKS often occur when broiler diets contain high levels of wheat or maize and suboptimal levels of protein. "It was recently shown", he says, "that biotin, one of the B vitamins, is effective in preventing the occurence of this disorder".

Experiments were initiated at the university to study the effects of the use of biotin on the incidence of FLKS and levels of fat in the livers and kidneys of broilers.

The addition of biotin to broiler rations containing a high or medium level of protein resulted in a more rapid rate of growth and a reduction in the amount of feed required per unit of gain. A lower incidence of the bone disease, perosis, was also observed in birds fed rations supplemented with biotin. No symptoms of FLKS were seen in any of them.

Although the composition of the livers and kidneys was not affected by the levels of protein in the ration or the amount of biotin fed, a reduction in liver size was observed in the birds when biotin was added to the ration.

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DANGERS OF LOW CARBOHYDRATE DIETS

Did you know that low carbohydrate diets can be dangerous to your health?

Low carbohydrate diet books say all you have to do to lose weight is to stick to proteins like eggs, meat and cheese, and fats. You can eat as much of them as you like,but you must stay away from carbohydrates like bread, potatoes and sweets. However, what these books do not tell you is that you may end up paying a high price for these seemingly painless diets.

According to the American Medical Association, low carbohydrate, high fat diets can trigger a condition known as ketosis. Although ketones normally play a part in the body's metabolic processes, an overabundance of them can, in addition to suppressing the dieter's appetite, cause a metabollic pattern similar to diabetes.

The health problems that have been linked by the medical profession to low carbohydrate diets include dehydration, kidney trouble, fatigue, apathy, depletion of calcium and conditions associated with heart disease. The sinister part of these diets is that their full impact on the dieter's health may go unnoticed for years.

Alberta Agriculture's home economist, Helen Raynard, advises people who want to lose weight after the holiday season to follow the "Canada Food Guide". She says it recommends diets that are low in calories but that include some carbohydrates. For those who feel they must have a snack between meals, Mrs. Raynard suggests raw vegetables.

If you would like a copy of the "Canada Food Guide" write to the Home Economics Laboratory, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

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IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS

Did you know that the average family handles about 1,000 bills, receipts, letters and other important documents and papers in a year? This may seem rather hard to believe but it is true.

Hence, every farm home should have a home business centre. A well planned and organized business centre can save you time, energy and even money!

The filing system is one of the most important features of a home business centre. It should include all essential information pertaining to the farm and home and be organized in such a way that you can lay your hands on any information at a moments notice.

Filing cabinets are convenient, but not essential for a home business centre. Home-made filing boxes can be made from detergent boxes covered with attractive paper, labelled and put on a shelf like a row of books.

Ideas on designing a home business centre and information on organizing and setting up a filing system are contained in an excellent booklet called "Your Home Business Centre". It is available from district home economists and from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 3, 1977

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TWO PLANT INDUSTRY APPOINTMENTS

Dave Jantzie, head of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch, has announced the appointments of Phil Thomas to the position of supervisor of oilseed crops and of Bob Nelson to the position of acting supervisor of cereals and seed cleaning plants.

Mr. Thomas

In his new position Mr. Thomas will work closely with the Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association, the oilseed industry in general and farmers. His duties will include initiating oilseed crop policies and administering research and production programs throughout the province. He will also be responsible for investigating varietal performance and cultural practices related to oilseed crops and for reporting results to the oilseed industry. In addition, he will assist Alberta Agriculture and the oilseed industry in their extension programs.

Mr. Thomas was born and raised on a mixed farm in the Eckville area. He attended the Olds College and graduated in 1962. After a short period on the family farm, he enrolled at the University of Alberta, graduating in 1967 with a B. Sc. (agriculture). He then joined Alberta Agriculture as assistant district agriculturist at Taber. The following year he became district agriculturist at Sangudo.

Mr. Thomas spent a brief period as farm radio commentator with Alberta Agriculture's communications branch and then joined the Alberta Potato Commission as secretary-manager. Later he returned to the University of Alberta and graduated with an M. Sc. in 1974, having specialized in rapeseed research. From then until his present appointment he has been district agriculturist at Vermilion.

For the time being Mr. Thomas will be located at Vermilion.

Mr. Nelson

As acting supervisor of cereals and seed cleaning plants, Mr. Nelson will be responsible for initiating and conducting cereal demonstration and extension programs related to cereal crops and seed cleaning plants in all areas of Alberta. He will also act as

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Two Plant Industry Appointments (cont'd)

a liaison for all segments of the cereal crops industry.

Mr. Nelson was raised on a mixed farm near Bashaw. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1962, having majored in soils. Two years later he received his M. Sc. (agriculture) from the same university.

Following graduation, Mr. Nelson worked as technical representative for a chemical company. The next year he joined Alberta Agriculture as an instructor in agriculture at the Fairview College. In 1966 he was appointed regional plant industry supervisor for the Peace River region. Four years later he was transferred to Red Deer as regional plant industry supervisor for the central region of the province. He held this position until his present appointment. Mr. Nelson will continue to reside at Red Deer for the time being.

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MECHANICAL SEPARATION OF ANIMAL WASTES

A study being carried out by Alberta Agriculture's engineering services branch shows that it is technically feasible to mechanically separate the solids from the liquid in animal wastes.

After solids have been separated from the liquid, both are much easier to dispose of. The solids can be handled with a front-end loader or chopper-type manure pump, and the liquid can be pumped onto fields from a lagoon without encountering settling or agitation problems.

Although solids and liquids in animal wastes have been separated by the use of settling ponds, it is believed that Alberta Agriculture's mechanical separation study is the first of its kind to be carried out in Western Canada. The advantage of this type of separation over the conventional method is that it is quicker and more efficient. Also, mechanical separation is a pre-requisite to further treatment of wastes to reduce such pollution problems as odour and water contamination.

The Alberta study was carried out five miles from Calgary on a 3,000-animal hog operation. All the hogs, including a herd of 400 sows, were confined in pens with partially slatted floors.

The objective of the study was to evaluate several mechanical separation techniques with the aim of improving the water in the liquid to the point where it could be used to wash down the barns and to reduce the amount of waste that had to be spread on farm land. Solids with a large portion of the water removed are much cheaper to transport than untreated waste.

The techniques evaluated under the study were a mechanical vibrating screen; a stationary inclined screen; a clarifier, used in conjunction with coagulants, and

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Mechanical Separation of Animal Wastes (cont'd)

a rotating biological contactor for the aerobic treatment of animal wastes.

The study showed that the mechanical vibrating screen required too much supervision and maintenance to be practical under farm conditions. For example, the fact that the rate of waste flow into the screen must be precisely controlled is a drawback. The rate of flow is difficult to control because the characteristics of the waste are continually changing.

However, the mechanical vibrating screen removed approximately 40 per cent of the solids in the waste which would be quite acceptable for any waste management system where only improved handling of the liquid part of the waste was required. In fact, this technique would be ideal for use with flush gutters or storage lagoons. If, however, water treatment for pollution control were the ultimate objective of separating the solids from the liquid, the mechanical vibrating screen could be considered only as a primary solids/liquid separation device. The separation would have to be followed by a secondary biological treatment technique.

Preliminary results of work done with the stationary inclined screen indicate that it is a reliable, low maintenance device that is capable of handling a wide variation in waste flow and a wide variation in waste characteristics. It is not as sensitive to changes in waste characteristics as the mechanical vibrating screen and is of a much simpler design. So far the inclined stationary screen seems to be the most practical mechanical separation method tested.

The clarifier worked well in removing solids that still remained in the liquid after it had passed through a screen. However, this study indicated that such a unit is not necessary when the mechanical screening method is used. Nearly all the solids which cause physical handling problems are removed by the screen. The coagulants used in conjunction with the clarifier were not practical because they were too expensive.

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Mechanical Separation of Animal Wastes (cont'd)

So far study results on the rotating biological contactor for treating the pollutants in the liquid fraction of animal waste show that this device is capable of removing more than 40 per cent of them. However, it remains to be seen whether or not the technique will prove economically feasible. At present the rotating biological contactor seems to have an advantage over conventional aeration systems in terms of lower energy consumption and ease of installation and operation. Also, it is virtually free of maintenance requirements.

However, the application of the rotating biological contactor technique is limited because of its high installation costs (probably between $30,000 and $50,000), but it might be considered in cases of severe environmental or residential encroachment problems.

Alberta Agriculture's study indicates that it should be technically possible to treat liquid hog wastes (and wastes from other confinement operations like dairy cattle and poultry) in such a way that two easily handled fractions are produced. The solids portion, with an 85 to 90 per cent moisture content, could be deposited on farm land by conventional liquid manure handling methods, while the liquid portion could be stored in a concrete or earthen lagoon prior to being spread on the land with a sprinkler irrigation system. There would be no agitation or solids build-up problems. If further treatment of the liquid fraction was required because of environmental problems, a rotating biological contactor could be used.

A detailed report covering the Alberta Agriculture study, which was financially supported by Agriculture Canada, can be obtained from Brian West, Animal Waste Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, 4747 - 50 Street, Red Deer, T4H 5Y5.

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EFFECT OF CLIPPING LEGUMES DURING SEEDING YEAR

Should a perennial legume crop be harvested in the year it is seeded?

Perennial legume crops seeded without a companion crop do not compete well with weeds. However, the weeds can be readily controlled by clipping, but what happens to the legumes when they are cut at the same time?

To answer this question, L. P. Folkins, forage research worker at the federal research station at Lacombe, carried out clipping trials on alfalfa, sainfoin and birdsfoot trefoil. These crops were seeded in 1973 and in 1975 and clipped at different times and different heights during the year of seeding. The crops were harvested in 1974 and 1976 for yield data.

Following is a summary of yield results in both kilograms per hectare (kg/ha) and tons per acre (T/acre) from the various clipping treatments.

A kilogram is equal to 2.2 pounds and a hectare is equal to 2.5 acres.

Average Yields of Hay Harvested in 1974 & 1976

Treatment in 1973 & 1975	Alfalfa		Sanfoin		Trefoil	
	kg/ha	T/acre	kg/ha	T/acre	kg/ha	T/acre
Not cut (check plot)	9660	4.2	10770	4.74	8980	3.95
Cut Oct. 4 at 4"	8658	3.8	9160	4.03	8520	3.75
Cut Sept. 11 at 4"	7330	3.2	8230	3.62	8180	3.69
Cut July 26 & Sept. 11 at 4"	6230	2.7	8190	3.60	7960	3.50
Cut Sept. 11 at 2"	6560	2.9	7780	3.42	7630	3.31
Cut July 26 & Sept. 11 at 2"	5120	2.2	7240	3.19	7770	3.41

From the above data, Mr. Folkins concluded that:

- Forage yields in the year after seeding decreased with the increasing severity of cutting during the seeding year.
- The higher the frequency of cutting and the closer the cutting, the more the plants were damaged and the lower the yield of forage was the following year.
- Early clipping was injurious to alfalfa and sainfoin, but not necessarily injurious to trefoil.

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Effect of Clipping Legumes During Seeding Year (cont'd)

- Birdsfoot trefoil was the least affected by clipping of the three crops. Alfalfa was the most affected.

Mr. Folkins adds that the decreased alfalfa yields did not persist beyond the first harvest year.

According to Larry Gareau, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, the practical significance of the above findings is that they will help a farmer to decide when, and whether it will be economically to his advantage, to harvest a first year seeding of legumes. "These findings also indicate," says Mr. Gareau, "that if a farmer is faced with a weed problem in his legume seedlings that requires clipping, he should consider a single clipping at least four inches high and as late as possible in the season."

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CORRECTION: Coming Agricultural Events (December 27, 1976 issue Agri-News). The Canadian Horticultural Council meeting will be held at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Ontario from February 21-23 inclusive. Not during the first week of March as stated.

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SOIL SAMPLE NUMBERS UP

The number of soil samples analyzed last year at Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory was up by 35 per cent compared with 1975 and by 75 per cent compared with 1974.

Richard Leitch, soils specialist at the laboratory, reports that 15,000 regular farm soil samples were analyzed from April to December 1976 compared with 11,000 in 1975 and 8,500 in 1974.

The majority of the 1976 samples arrived at the laboratory in November instead of being spread over the three-month fall period as is usually the case. The fact that about 5,500 samples were received in November created a backlog which has resulted in a five to six week delay in farmers receiving their soil test reports. The normal delay is about three weeks. However, Mr. Leitch says all reports will be in the hands of farmers in plenty of time for spring planning.

Although the long open fall was partly responsible for the increase in volume of samples submitted in 1976, it was not the whole answer because there was also a long open fall in 1975. Mr. Leitch believes more farmers took soil samples in 1976 than in previous years because they wanted to combat the high cost of fertilizers through a more accurate assessment of their fertilizer requirements. The emphasis placed on soil sampling by Alberta Agriculture and the fertilizer industry, as a means of keeping production costs down, also seems to have played a part in the larger than normal volume of samples submitted for analysis in 1976.

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HORTICULTURAL SHORT COURSES FOR PEACE RIVER AND RED DEER

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch is sponsoring three consecutive short courses at the Travellers Motor Inn at Peace River from January 24-27 and at the Red Deer Inn from February 8-11.

The first course, entitled "Introduction to Market Gardening" is a one-day course for people anticipating starting a market garden and for those who have recently started a market garden. It will cover such topics as choosing a location for a market garden, sizes of market gardens and types of operations and crops. Other sections will deal with marketing (pick-your-own, gate sales, promotion, etc.); transplants and transplanting; weed control and the production of root crops, cole crops, vine crops, legumes, corn and tomatoes. No previous experience is required for this course but it is not intended for "backyard" gardeners.

The second course, "Small Fruit Production" is also a one-day course. It will cover raspberry, strawberry and saskatoon production and the diagnosis and control of diseases, insects and weeds that affect these crops. A major part of the course will feature "direct to the consumer" marketing.

Prior market gardening experience is not a prerequisite for this course but would be an asset.

The third course, "Advanced Vegetable Production", is a two-day course intended for people who have prior production experience. It will cover vine crops, onions, corn and tomatoes with emphasis on varieties, precision seeding, plant population, mulches, hotcaps, harvesting, storage, etc. Other topics on the agenda include weed control and herbicides; greenhouses (construction costs, style structures, glazing materials, heating and ventilation) and marketing. The marketing section will cover marketing board functions; grading, quality and labelling regulations; promotion and consumer expectations.

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Horticultural Short Courses For Peace River and Red Deer (cont'd)

The final section of the Advanced Vegetable Production course will cover labor, grants, irrigation design and services, soil testing and plant diagnostic services.

The registration fee for each course is $10. Anyone interested in taking one or all three courses is asked to contact either of the following as soon as possible.

T.R. Krahn
Alberta Horticultural Research Center
Brooks, Alberta T0J 0J0

R.M. Trimmer
601 Agriculture Building
9718 - 107th Street
Edmonton, Alberta

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FERTILIZER METRIC CONVERSION

As most people are aware, the grain industry goes metric on February 1, and the rest of the agricultural industry will not be far behind.

The fertilizer industry, for example, has voluntarily decided to begin metric conversion on July 1, 1977. However, home gardeners will probably find new package sizes of fertilizers as early as this spring in some garden supply stores.

Federal regulations do not dictate standardized package sizes,but the fertilizer industry has agreed to package home garden fertilizers in one, 2, 5, 10 and 25 kilograms. Since a kilogram is about 2.2 pounds, a one kilogram package will be a bit lighter than a 2 1/2 pound package, and a 2 kilogram package will be about the same weight as the old 5 pound package.

If you need 10 pounds of fertilizer, buy the 5 kilogram package --- it will give you only slightly more than 10 pounds. Since all fertilizers now have to be sold by weight, the small bottles of liquid house plant fertilizer will soon be appearing in gram sizes.

Farm fertilizers will start appearing in 25 kilogram packages -- a little heavier than the old 50 pound bag -- after July 1. Bulk fertilizers will be sold by the metric tonne (2,200 imperial pounds) when the conversion is complete.

Farmers will not have to change the settings on their machinery because the new application rates in kilograms per hectare will have the same basic relationship as pounds per acre.

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EFFECTS OF FREEZING BEEF STEAKS

A study carried out by the University of Alberta's faculty of home economics shows that meat purchased fresh can be frozen and stored for 10 days with no appreciable deterioration in quality.

In the study loin steaks from young bulls were frozen and stored for 10 and 187 days in each of three types of household freezers. Generally speaking, the data indicated no differences in the eating quality of fresh steaks and the average for the steaks frozen for 10 days. However, a marked deterioration in eating quality was recorded for the steaks which had been stored for 187 days.

The study also showed that the quality of the steaks was not significantly affected by the type of freezer used when the steaks were stored for only a short period. However, the upright freezer with its lower temperature produced superior results in the case of prolonged storage. The three types of freezer used were a one-door refrigerator-freezer combination, a two-door frost-free refrigerator freezer combination and an upright household freezer.

The method used to thaw the steaks did not seem to have much effect on their quality either. One lot of steaks was thawed over a 24-hour period in the refrigerator at 2°C, another lot was taken out of the refrigerator and thawed for five hours at a room temperature of 22°C and the remainder were cooked from the frozen state in a 176°C (350°F) oven.

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January 10, 1976

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1977 FORAGE CROP RECOMMENDATIONS

"Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta 1977" contains only two changes from last year in its 1977 list of recommended varieties.

Alfa alfalfa has been deleted and Trek alfalfa has been added. Developed at the federal research station at Lethbridge, Trek is mainly an irrigation type of alfalfa that is resistant to stem nematode and suitable for dehydration. However, it has shown good winter hardiness in all areas of the province.

Two new forage varieties are listed in the recently released variety section of "Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta 1977". They are Cabree Russian wildrye and Prairieland altai wildrye. The former is a seed shatter resistant variety with good seedling vigor, while the latter is a good variety for pastures that will be grazed in the late fall and during the winter. Commercial seed of the two varieties should be available to farmers in the spring of 1978.

"Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta 1977" also lists eight varieties suitable for special situations. They are:

Chimo alfalfa which recovers quickly after having been cut and is suitable for dehydration.

Titan, WL 202 and Valor alfalfa all have better winter hardiness vigor and quality than Vernal.

Tardus II orchardgrass is a winterhardy variety which may be suitable for northern areas of the province.

Toro timothy is a very early variety that may be desireable for early pastures.

Itasca timothy is similar to Climax in both yield and general performance.

Lemtal Italian ryegrass is suitable for irrigation areas as an annual pasture crop.

- (cont'd) -

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1977 Forage Crop Recommendations (cont'd)

Seed for all the above varieties will be available this spring.

Copies of "Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta 1977" can be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 10, 1976

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO IS SHE?

She is often unaware of what is expected of her. She is assumed to have unlimited time. She faces copious criticism and complaints from the public for things over which she has no control, and she works all too often without thanks, appreciation or acknowledgement.

Who is this mysterious person? She is the secretary who works in the average district extension office throughout Alberta. The above is not the case for all secretaries or for all days, but it is true of most secretaries on most days.

As an integral part of the team in a district extension office, she is expected to maintain a happy, helpful relationship with the farmers of this province as she arranges a match between their needs and available resources. She is expected to make correct referrals when a client's needs do not fall within the jurisdiction of Alberta Agriculture. She is expected to maintain an efficient office routine and to display an office image that portrays this efficiency. She is also expected to be a placatory catalyst, pouring oil on troubled waters and smoothing ruffled feathers.

This small army of capable, efficient people, who practise these special skills, deserve full credit from Alberta Agriculture and the public for the many jobs they perform as secretaries, receptionists and commissioners for oaths. The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, John Calpas says, "I would like to see us give due recognition for the excellent job our secretaries do and to include them more fully in our team operation."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE PRICE OUTLOOK

Slaughter cattle prices are expected to approach the 'normal' seasonal price pattern this year with a relatively high first quarter, a high second quarter, a lower third quarter and a higher fourth quarter.

Maurice Kraut, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, expects the top price for slaughter steers at Calgary in the first quarter to average between $40 and $42.50 per hundredweight. He also expects good cows to be selling in the range of $21 to $23 during this period and good feeder steers for fattening to sell for between $32 and $36.

The federal outlook indicates that top slaughter steers in Toronto will average between $46 and $49 per hundredweight in 1977. The American outlook is for stronger prices too. Choice steers at Omaha are expected to average between $42 and $43 per hundredweight in 1977, which would put the Toronto market on an import basis. "Hence, it is highly probable", says Mr. Kraut," that Alberta prices will come close to the $50 mark during the peak summer months and average around $42 or $43 per hundredweight for the whole of 1977. This would be an 8 to 10 per cent increase over 1976 prices." Cows should average in the high $20 to low $30 range and feeder cattle are expected to range from $37 - $40. Calf prices could be near the $50 per hundredweight level compared with an approximate average of $36 per hundredweight in 1976.

Mr. Kraut explains that as the year progresses a shortage of steers for fattening and good cows for slaughter will push prices up. However, the extent of the price increase for all classes of cattle will be mainly governed by the price of imported beef as well as the quantity offered on the market at any one time. Other important factors affecting prices this year will be the general state of the economy and the level of consumer disposable income.

Mr. Kraut points out that the high rate of cattle slaughter in both Canada and the U.S. last year has reduced cattle herd inventories for 1977. "This situation", he says,

- (cont'd) -

Cattle Price Outlook (cont'd)

"will result in the level of slaughter being down by about 6 per cent in Alberta and Canada." Cow slaughter is expected to be down by between 2 to 4 per cent; heifer slaughter by 10 to 12 per cent and steer slaughter by 4 to 6 per cent. Since a larger proportion of the animals slaughtered this year will be grain-fed, they will yield heavier carcasses than was the case in 1976. This means the volume of meat produced will not drop dramatically.

Available pork and poultry supplies in Canada and the U.S., as well as Oceanic beef and veal supplies, will also have a bearing on 1977 beef prices. Canada has set import quotas for 1977 which will allow 120 million pounds of beef to be imported from Australia and New Zealand. However, this quota could be adjusted, depending upon supply and demand. With Australian and New Zealand livestock production expected to increase by 7 to 9 per cent this year, unlimited exports into Canada and the U. S. would have serious adverse effects on the North American livestock industry.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY VERSUS BARLEY IN CALF RATIONS

There could be some errors in the thinking of cattle feeders who are trying to cut costs by reducing the amount of grain they feed their calves this winter.

This is the opinion of D.B. Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer. He points out that on a per pound basis, hay may cost less than barley, but that on an equal energy basis, it may cost more than barley.

The following table lists various barley prices and shows what hay should cost on an equal energy basis. Other nutrients such as protein are not considered in this example.

Cost of Barley	$/bu	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50
Value of Hay							
alfalfa-grass	$/ton	35.80	43.00	50.20	57.60	64.60	71.86
grass	$/ton	32.22	38.70	45.18	51.84	58.14	64.67

Apart from certain specific locations and short time periods, the above relationship exists between hay and barley. This is because when hay gets too expensive, the demand for it goes down, and the demand for grain goes up, tending to bring prices back into the previous ratio. The same situation occurs if barley becomes too expensive.

Another point to consider before reducing the amount of grain in winter calf rations is that the reduction may reduce the daily gain of the calves. Reduced gains usually mean an increase in the cost of the gains as illustrated in the table below.

Calves Wintered for 200 days - initially weighing 450 lbs

	Hay Ration	Hay & Barley Ration
Daily Gain (lb/day)	1.0	1.75
Average Weight for Period (lb)	525	625
Average Ration Fed (lb/day)		
Barley	-	6.5
Hay	14.0	9.5
Feed Costs *		
$/day	.35	.47
$/lb gain	.35	.27

* Feed Costs -
Barley $1.75/bu
Hay $50/ton

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Hay Versus Barley In Calf Rations (cont'd)

The table shows that the cheapest ration on a per day basis is not always the cheapest on a per pound of gain basis. In fact, often the cheapest ration is the one that gives the highest gains.

Mr. Karren says the rate of gain that a feeder aims for should always be in harmony with his overall production program. In other words, the amount of condition he puts on a calf should be consistent with its intended use. Calves going on to spring pasture, for example, should carry less condition than those going into a feedlot. Even the amount of condition on calves going into a feedlot will depend upon whether the owner plans to feed them himself or whether he is going to sell them. Buyers prefer animals without too much condition.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PRODUCTS FOR LOUSE CONTROL ON CATTLE

Korlan 2 and Co-Ral are two new insecticides that are now available for controlling lice on beef and dairy cattle.

According to Michael Dolinski, pest control specialist and entomologist with Alberta Agriculture, Korlan 2 is the only pour-on insecticide that can be used to control lice on cattle during any month of the year. Other pour-ons, systemic sprays (excluding Ruelene) and Spotton cannot be used during December, January or February, except if prescribed by a veterinarian.

Korlan 2 can be used on cattle regardless whether or not they were treated for warbles and is very effective in reducing louse populations. In fact, apart from cattle which are heavily infested with sucking lice, one treatment usually provides adequate control during the winter months. An additional treatment may be required for animals which have a large population of sucking lice if populations build up again after treatment.

Korlan 2 may not be used to treat cattle with an extremely heavy louse infestation, because the cattle may be anaemic, or on animals that are within one month of calving. In the case of dairy cattle, it is preferable to treat them in the dry period. However, if they should develop lice during the milking period, they can be treated providing the milk is not used for seven days after treatment. Cattle should never be treated within seven days of slaughter.

Co-Ral, a one per cent dust that is sold in a shaker, is convenient for use on dairy cattle and for animals in a small beef herd. It is also useful for spot treatment in a large herd.

It should be applied evenly through the hair on the animals head, neck, shoulders, back and tailhead. The rate of application is not more than 2 ounces of dust

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New Products For Louse Control On Cattle (cont'd)

per animal, and one application is usually sufficient. However, if another treatment is required, it should not be applied within 10 days of the first application. No wait period is required with this product between treatments and the slaughter of beef cattle, and it can be used on milking dairy cattle. However, with milking animals, it should be applied after the cow has been milked rather than before it is milked.

Mr. Dolinski says Korlan 2 and Co-Ral are available in Alberta from feed companies, co-operatives and many retail outlets that sell livestock products.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN FARMERS URGED TO CHECK GRANARIES FOR BEETLES

The head of Alberta Agriculture's pest control branch, J. B. Gurba, urges farmers in southern Alberta to check their grain bins at least every two weeks from now until next spring for beetles.

This advice is prompted by the recent outbreak of rusty grain beetles. These insects have been found in all types of grain on at least 100 farms in the southern part of the province. Affected farms have obtained permits from the federal government to bring Tetrafume fumigant from Montana, and the county of Warner is attempting to obtain permission from the federal government to import the chemical.

Mr. Gurba says, "Tetrafume is especially useful in grain bins that have been filled to the roof. Phostoxin tablets can be used effectively and safely in bins where headroom is available. If the grain can be moved, treatment with special grade malation is also effective and safe."

Rusty grain beetles are expected to remain a problem in southern Alberta for the rest of the winter and are most active in warm weather. They are flat, reddish brown and about one-sixteenth of an inch long. The best way to check for them is to take samples of grain, six inches below the surface of the grain, with a 10-mesh sieve, and examine the samples carefully under indoor temperatures.

Mr. Gurba warns that farmers should be extremely careful when using Tetrafume or any other fumigant. "The first rule," he says, "is to always wear a proper gas mask and to work in pairs. Whenever possible apply the fumigant as a coarse spray with a pump outside the granary If it is necessary to enter a treated bin, be sure that the person entering it has a rope around his waist so that the person outside can pull him out if he should be overcome with fumes."

Don McCoy, agricultural fieldman for the County of Warner, who has been helping to organize the battle against the rusty grain beetles, says gas masks and other safety equipment that may be required can be obtained from the Safety Supply store in Lethbridge.

- (cont'd) -

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Southern Farmers Urged To Check Granaries For Beetles (cont'd)

Further information on controlling grain beetles can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Plant Industry regional office in Lethbridge. Detailed information on the subject is contained in the 1976 publication "Insects and Mites in Farm-Stored Grain in the Prairie Provinces", also available from district agriculturists.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIDDEN DANGERS OF BALER STRING

Be careful how you handle bale strings. There can be hidden dangers.

A farmer in the Ponoka area, who was in the habit of rebaling broken bales, had a near tragedy recently when a plastic bale string in the new bale became entangled in his grain mixer as he was feeding in chunks of hay. His hand became caught in a loop in the string and was jerked violently towards the hammers. Luckily, the heavy glove the farmer was wearing was pulled off and he escaped injury. The glove went through the grinder.

According to Ted Darling, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Ponoka, this near accident is only one of many that can be caused by carelessly handled bale strings. An unnoticed bale string anchored in frozen ground or in manure, for example, is a ready-made snare for an unwary farm worker. Also, bale strings can become wrapped around the beaters and shafts of a manure spreader, causing loss of time,and, if eaten by cattle, sheep or horses, they can cause sickness and even death.

Mr. Darling's advice is "Do not rebale broken bales unless you first retrieve all the original strings; do not leave bale strings in a feedlot or allow them to accumulate on a corral post. Always pile them in a safe place until you have enough to burn."

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING PRUNING COURSES

Does your job involve trees? Would you like to know how to look after them properly?

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch is offering three spring pruning courses for people whose work involves tree maintenance or who are self-employed in this type of work. If the threat of a Dutch elm disease outbreak in Alberta materializes, as seems likely, a knowledge of proper pruning techniques will be invaluable to those who have elm trees and to those who might be interested in pruning jobs. Although Alberta Agriculture's annual spring pruning courses are basically designed for people whose jobs involve trees, the courses are open to anybody interested in tree maintenance and beautification.

The first two courses will be held simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 10 and 11. The third one will be held at Fairview on March 15 and 16. Attendance at each course is limited to 30, but if any of the courses are over-subscribed, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course. These extra courses will be held immediately following the scheduled course at any of the three locations.

Each of the three courses cover specific pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees. The course is set up in such a way that participants will have ample opportunity to practice what they learn in the classroom. Other topics on the agenda include insect and disease control as it relates to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties that are recommended for Alberta.

The deadline for applications is March 1. Forms are available from the horticultural branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 and should be returned to the horticultural branch. The registration fee for these two-day courses is only $10.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN LETHBRIDGE MOVING TO AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division, district extension office, regional agricultural specialists and 4-H staff in Lethbridge have all moved to the Agricultural Center on the federal research station grounds. The grounds are on the eastern outskirts of Lethbridge, just off highway No. 3 east.

The move means that all Alberta Agriculture's and Agriculture Canada's programs and services related to research and extension information on such things as production technology, farm business management, food marketing, homemaking and rural family living will now all be under one roof.

The new complex is the result of more than four years of planning by Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada. When Poole Construction puts the finishing touches to the center later this year, more than three years will have elapsed since construction started.

The telephone numbers of those sectors of Alberta Agriculture which have moved into the Agriculture Center will remain the same as they were in the old locations. The address of Alberta Agriculture is Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, T1J 4B1.

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January 17, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A CENTRE

The 4-H movement is celebrating its 60th anniversary in Alberta this year by embarking on a campaign to raise funds to purchase land and to construct a 4-H centre.

For many years 4-H members and leaders have been urging their provincial advisory council to consider establishing a centre that would include enough land to accommodate the 4-H educational, recreational and social activities.

An option has already been taken on a 143-acre of parcel of land on Battle Lake, west of Wetaskiwin, and 4-H members, clubs and councils throughout Alberta are engaged in raising funds in rural communities to pay for the land. If they succeed in raising sufficient funds to purchase it by April 1 of this year, planning for the facilities to be built on the land will be begun. The plans will be presented to 4-H leaders for approval at the November 1977 4-H Leaders' Conference, which will be held in Calgary. The centre should be completed in 1980, if all goes according to schedule.

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CALGARY SEED FAIR & HAY SHOW CANCELLED

The Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show, scheduled to take place early in March, has been cancelled for this year.

Lack of interest on the part of the exhibitors, and lack of attendance on the part of the public, during the last few years are the reasons given for its cancellation. However, those in charge of organizing the seed fair and hay show hope to bring it back next year under a new format.

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January 17, 1977

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QUALITY OF RURAL LIFE SESSION

The Rural Education and Development Association is sponsoring a quality of rural life session on February 25 and 26 at Banff Centre, Banff.

The session, which has been arranged in response to the need for continuing programs for rural people, is based on the theme "A Look Into Life". It is intended for adults between the ages of 20 and 35 years old (preference will be given to married couples) and will include directives and basic insights for living in a rural environment.

The deadline for registering for "A Look Into Life" is February 4 and the fees are $40 for a single person and $70 for a couple.

A brochure on the session can be obtained from your local extension office, Unifarm office or Women of Unifarm office.

For further information contact:

John Melicher
Director of Youth and Community Services
Rural Education and Development Association
9934 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1C4 (Telephone 429-1293)

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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January 24, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

Alberta hog prices for the first quarter of this year are expected to be in the mid-$40 range with the average price for the year being around $50 per hundredweight (dressed). These figures represent a decrease of 15 to 16 per cent compared with 1976 figures.

"This anticipated decline in prices, compared with last year, will be mainly due to Canadian imports from the United States", says Maurice Kraut, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture. He reports that Alberta's share of Canada's hog production dropped from 20 per cent in 1973 to only 14 per cent in 1976. He also points out that this decline, which led to the closure of processing facilities in the province, has created a great deal of concern regarding the future of Alberta's hog industry. "The whole dilema", he says, "leads one to question whether it is a good idea for the province to develop programs that stimulate production. Perhaps hog production levels should be based upon the revenue position in the grain sector, as has been the case in the past."

In 1976 the per capita consumption of pork in Alberta was in the vicinity of 53 pounds, representing a 12 per cent decrease compared with 1975. During the same period the province imported in excess of 16 million pounds of pork. These imports probably could account for approximately 18 per cent of Alberta's domestic consumption compared with a probable 8 to 10 per cent on a national basis.

Federal Outlook

Price indications for Canada as a whole are that they will be under pressure for the first half of the year, but should begin to improve in the last half. The federal outlook indicates hog prices in Toronto will average $54 to $59 per hundredweight. However, Mr. Kraut predicts a Canadian average of between $50 and $55 per hundredweight, providing other complicating factors, such as beef and pork imports, do not have an undue influence on the market as they did in 1976.

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Hog Outlook (cont'd)

The latest Canadian hog survey indicates that total Canadian hog production for at least the first six months of 1977 may be 2 per cent higher than it was in 1976. Alberta's hog production may also be up by 2 per cent during this period. In both cases production is expected to reach its peak in the late summer. This means that Canadian prices will be under pressure for the first half of the year, but should begin to improve in the last half.

U.S. Outlook

The United States Department of Agriculture's December, 1976, Hog Survey indicates that production in the first half of this year will be up 13 to 14 per cent compared with the low levels of last year. Projections for the second half of the year indicate that production may increase by 5 per cent, which would put U.S. hog production for the year at 10 per cent higher than it was in 1976. However, Mr. Kraut believes that this increase can easily be absorbed by consumers if the expected decrease in livestock slaughter and the anticipated increase in pork exports materialize in 1977.

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January 24, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA PROCESSING PLANT ACCEPTS GRANT

The Mallaig Processor Company Ltd., an alfalfa pellet and animal feed processing plant in north-eastern Alberta, has accepted a development grant of $288,036 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

The first completely enclosed alfalfa plant in North America, it will process alfalfa in the St. Paul area and is expected to produce 10,000 tons of pellets in its first year of operation. The hay will all be obtained under contract with the local farmers. This means that the company will be responsible for cutting and hauling the hay to the plant where it will be dried and made into pellets. The plant is expected to create 38 new jobs in the St. Paul area.

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is designed to encourage the establishment, modernization and expansion of nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta by providing financial assistance. In the case of the processing plant at Mallaig, the grant, which is shared equally by the federal and provincial governments, was based on 17.8 per cent of the plant's total capital requirement, estimated at $1,618,185.

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January 24, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1976 TAX AMENDMENTS

Although there have not been many changes to the tax rules for 1976, farmers should be aware of the following amendments, says Len Fullen, Alberta Agriculture's taxation specialist.

One of the amendments concerns the Animal Diseases and Protection Act. It states that the income tax due on compensation paid by the federal government to the owner of a herd which had to be destroyed, to prevent the spread of a serious animal disease, can now be deferred until the following year if the herd cannot be replaced until that time.

There were also two changes in capital cost allowance for 1976. A farmer may now write-off up to $200 of the purchase price of a tool like a chain saw or a piece of welding equipment if it was bought after May 25, 1976. The previous maximum write-off was $100.

The depreciation on the cost of building a road or paving a laneway or other areas that can be charged against income tax was increased in 1976 to 8 per cent per annum from 4 per cent. The new ruling only apolies to paving done after May 25, 1976.

The accelerated capital cost allowance on pollution control equipment, which was to have expired last year, has been extended to apply to pollution control systems built or purchased in 1976. Special rates of capital cost allowance which go as high as 50 per cent may apply to these systems.

Although the investment tax credit is not new, it bears repeating. Under this ruling a farmer and other businessmen can deduct 5 per cent of most investments in new machinery and in buildings from their federal income tax. In fact, it applies to most items in the capital cost schedule that were purchased between June 23, 1975 and July 1, 1977. However, no tax credit is allowed on used farm machinery, tile drainage, the costs involved in acquiring a milk quota or other similar assets.

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1976 Tax Amendments (cont'd)

In the case of farm buildings, that were under construction June 23, 1975, only those costs incurred after June 23, 1975,qualify for a tax credit. However, the entire costs of buildings begun before July 1, 1977, qualify for a tax credit, providing the footings or other base support installations were started between June 23, 1975, and July 1, 1977, and the building is completed according to the plans and specifications agreed to in writing before July 1, 1977.

Mr. Fullen recommends that anyone who is considering purchasing new machinery or putting up a new building this year should do so before July 1, 1977 so that he can take advantage of the 5 per cent investment tax credit.

Personal income tax exemption levels for 1976 have been increased by 11.3 per cent as a result of the rise in the consumer price index in that year. This means that the exemption for a single tax payer is now $2,091. The exemption for a spouse is $1,830 and for a senior citizen or disabled person it is $1,307. The exemption for a child under 16 years of age has been raised to $392 and for a child over 16 years of age it is now $719.

More detailed information on the above tax amendments and on the personal income tax exemptions can be found in the 1976 "Farmer's and Fisherman's Guide" and in "Your 1976 Personal Tax Guide".

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January 24, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF CATTLE MARKETING POWER

by Ken Eshpeter
Alberta Agriculture's Regional
Livestock Specialist at Barrhead

Beef cattle producers, especially those in Western Canada, have prided themselves for years as being truly free enterprisers. They have taken pride in the fact that cattlemen, through the use of privately owned facilities, have looked after all segments of their industry including calf raising, feedlot operations and feeder and fat cattle selling. Cattlemen have also always tended to reject government assistance in the form of production subsidies, marketing boards and various assorted ideas that come up from time to time.

This independent attitude is commendable because an industry should be able to make it on its own. However, the time has come for cattlemen and cattle organizations to take an extremely hard look at some forces existing in the current beef cattle system, if the old concept of "free enterprise" is going to continue working to the benefit of producers in the future.

The selling of fat cattle is one area that has undergone considerable change over the last 20 years and much of it is not for the better. At one time a considerable portion of the fat cattle was marketed through public stockyards where each packing plant would have a buyer and reasonable competition for the fat cattle would exist. Today, however, 90 to 95 per cent of fat cattle are sold directly to packing plants. This system would be useful if it could overcome two major shortcomings.

Firstly, because the majority of cattle do not go through a central yard, realistic pricing information on fat cattle is much more difficult to come by. The quotations coming from the public stockyards are typically unrepresentative of what the actual market is doing. When only 5 to 10 per cent of the fat cattle in Alberta are setting the prices for the remaining 90 per cent, the situation is getting serious.

There is currently a pricing information source for cattle delivered directly to packing plants. It is called Canfax and is an accumulation of prices received by Canfax members for fat cattle delivered directly to plants. It is a good source of information except that too few people use it.

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Beef Cattle Marketing Power (cont'd)

The second difficulty arises when the cattle producer tries to sell his fat cattle directly to a packing plant. Many producers, especially the smaller ones, have been unable to get competitive bids on their cattle before they leave the farm. Usually only one bid is obtained, generally from the same buyer, time after time. It is almost as if other potential buyers will not, or for some reason cannot, enter the market for the cattle on that producers farm. Hence, there appears to be very little competition for the many smaller lots of fat cattle that are sold direct to packing plants.

This situation is extremely unfavorable. Cattle raisers are price takers. In other words, they accept a price bid on their product and have very little or no influence on what the final bid will be. It is one thing to be a price taker if the price that is taken has been arrived at under a highly competitive system, i.e. four or five packing plants bidding against each other. It is another thing to be a price taker when a competitive price setting mechanism has not had a chance to operate, i.e. when one plant in an area buys all the cattle with one bid on each lot. The latter situation indicates that free enterprise is not working at all, and, by in large, that is the situation we have today.

We do have a few large feedlots which, because of their size, are able to attract a large number of bidders on each lot of cattle. It is interesting to note that these large feedlots realized long ago the lack of buyer competition for fat cattle. Most of the feedlots that are able to market a minimum of a liner load of cattle at one time have gone to a sealed bid system. These operators realize the best prices are possible only if all the potential buyers are aware of, and competing for, all the fat cattle being sold.

This, however, is not the situation with the majority of cattle produced in Alberta. A large percentage of fat cattle in Alberta still come from farm lots of 500 head or less. Few of these feedlots are large enough individually to promote active competition among several packing plants for their cattle. In other words, the majority of fat cattle are being purchased on one bid, and, in many instances, no bid before the cattle are delivered to market.

Producers should try to do something about this situation before it is too late.

Beef Cattle Marketing Power (cont'd)

Basically some system must be found, or devised, that will increase the competition among buyers for the fat cattle available in Alberta. This system should try to do several things including

- expose all fat cattle for sale to all potential buyers.
- sell the cattle while they are on the farm so that the farmer retains some marketing leverage. A farmer who delivers cattle to a plant without a prior purchase commitment at a set price is not in a bargaining position.
- provide a marketing cost that is reasonable.
- provide a smooth flow of livestock from the farm right through to the consumer.

How can this be accomplished?

A group of cattlemen in Alberta have been working on a system since 1971 which appears to have tremendous potential on a wide-spread basis. The system is called the Modern Beef Exchange Ltd. Its concept is very simple but effective.

A group of farmers in a particular area of the province hires a secretary. The secretary takes listings from people who have fat cattle for sale, usually on a particular day of the week and within a 50-mile radius. They indicate the number, sex, approximate weight and location of the cattle. Upon completion of the list of cattle for sale on a given day, the secretary phones all potential buyers of these cattle. This usually includes all packing plants and commission firms and order buyers. These buyers are then given an opportunity to look at the cattle during the next two days, and then to submit a sealed telephone bid back to the secretary on each package of cattle they may be interested in. These bids are relayed back to the producers who must decide within a couple of hours if they want to sell. If they decide to sell, it must be to the highest net bidder.

Up to now these exchanges have operated on a limited scale. One is at Claresholm, one at Drumheller and another one opened recently at Westlock. They are increasing the competition among buyers of fat cattle by fostering a competitive atmosphere in the districts in which they are operating,with the result that all potential buyers are bidding on the cattle.

This selling mechanism has the potential to expand considerably, and,by so doing, to greatly improve the selling conditions, environment, and marketing power of farm feedlots operators.

Beef Cattle Marketing Power (cont'd)

There are probably other selling techniques that cattlemen could investigate to improve competitive bidding for their cattle. One thing is sure, however. If the trend towards direct delivery of fat cattle to packing plants continues, whereby fewer and fewer animals of increasingly variable quality go through terminal yards, some system of improving the competitive demand for fat cattle must occur in the country. Beef exchanges offer producers the option of taking the best bid for their cattle rather than the only bid.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A POSSIBLE NEW INDUSTRY

Do we have an important new industry sleeping at our feet? The acting president of the Musk Ox Association, Clarence Burpee, thinks we do.

He points out that there is a surplus of musk oxen on many of Canada's arctic islands which could be domesticated. "We in the south", he says, "have the livestockmen, veterinary colleges and university personnel who could provide the Eskimos with expertise on musk oxen, and they, in turn, could provide us with some musk oxen. In this way we could bring the two cultures together."

According to Mr. Burpee, the finest wool in the world comes from musk oxen. Also, since their favorite food is scrub brush, they could help clean up cattle ranges, and they could thrive in areas where cattle ranchers have not ventured.

It now appears that a committee will be set up at the Musk Ox Association's annual meeting in Saskatchewan to promote north-south trade in these animals. The committee is expected to include members of the Musk Ox Association, university personnel, government officials and representatives from the north.

Those in charge of arranging the meeting also plan to have a livestock specialist, an antropologist, an eskimo and a qiviut (musk oxen wool) specialist on the program.

The time and place for the meeting is:1 p.m., February 12, at Kirks Hall on the University of Saskatchewan's campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

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January 24, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEMAND FOR RABBITS OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY

"Wanted live rabbits for slaughter at government inspected plants."

If you have meat type rabbits there is a ready market for them at either of the two plants in Alberta, which between them, process about 15,000 rabbits a year. The plants, one of which is located in north-central Alberta and the other in the south of the province, are paying in the neighborhood of 55¢ (live) for fryer rabbits and around 45¢ for roasters (mature rabbits). The fryers retail at about $2.25 per pound and the roasters for slightly less.

According to Cameron Ross of Alberta Agriculture's agricultural processing branch, the demand for rabbits has increased substantially over the last year. He says, "Several hotels and large restaurants in the Edmonton and Calgary regions have indicated that they would like to add rabbit to their menus if they could be sure of getting a steady supply." The United States Department of Agriculture reports that rabbits have more protein and less calories than beef, lamb, pork or poultry.

The plant in southern Alberta has been so short of rabbits that it has had to get them from the United States. Apparently the most popular types are New Zealand red and whites and Californians.

Mr. Ross believes that raising rabbits is a suitable hobby for people living on small acreages because these animals require only a small amount of space, are clean and easily cared for. "If managed properly," he says, "they can be a profitable hobby."

If you have meat type rabbits for sale please contact Denis A. Saffran, Briarpatch Farm, R.R. # 2, Ardrossan, (922-2711) or Joe Mellons, R.R.# 6, Calgary (285-2248).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUSTOM RATES FOR LAND CLEARING

The joint Alberta Agriculture and Unifarm cost monitoring system, Agricultural Input Monitoring Service, has provided the following information on custom rates for land clearing.

However, anyone using this information should remember that every land clearing project differs in size, location, access, contour, bush density and working conditions. Hence, the custom charges listed below have been quoted in both daily and hourly rates to allow for these variable conditions. The range in hourly and daily charges, due to the variance in equipment size, are reflected in costs per acre.

Costs are also influenced by the intended use of the land after it has been cleared. Land to be used for a pasture, for example, usually requires less intensive root picking and levelling than land that is going to be sown to a crop that is mechanically harvested.

Land Clearing

Including blading or walking down, piling or rowing up, repiling after first burn, tractor, equipment and operator. Rates are usually quoted on an hourly basis, inclusive of transport of equipment to and from site. The hourly rate depends on bush density and tractor size.

Light Bush - (under 4" diameter) $30-$35 per hour, equivalent to $45-$50 per acre.

Medium Bush - (4" - 6" diameter) $40-$45 per hour, equivalent to $60-$70 per acre.

Heavy Bush - (over 6" diameter) $45-$50 per hour, equivalent to $80-$90 per acre.

Surcharge for steep rocky ground, $3-$5 per hour.

Land Breaking (after clearing)

Includes breaking between piles or rows, tractor, equipment and operator. $20-$40 per hour. The lower end of the scale is usually charged for disc plows and the upper end for mold board plows. These rates are equivalent to $15-$20 per acre for disc breaking and $25-$30 per acre for plow breaking.

Surcharge for rock clearing, $3-$5 per acre.

- (cont'd) -

Custom Rates for Land Clearing (cont'd)

Root Raking & Piling

Includes root grubbing, piling, tractor, wheel and drum rakes.

$25-$45 per hour, depending on stump and rock size. This is equivalent to $15-$25 per acre.

The charges for root rake rental are $100 (wheel rake) and $200 (drum rake) per day.

Inclusive rate sometimes quoted for the complete preparation of land for seed bed cultivation is $95-$115 per acre in medium density bush.

Post & Wire Fencing

Includes new materials, labor and on site equipment.

Limited information suggests $1500 per mile for 4" x 6' posts at 15' spacing with 4 strands of barbed wire. There is an extra charge for gates and direction changes.

Labor only for this type of fence is $750 per mile.

Statistics for the last five years show that between 150,000 to 300,000 acres of land are broken in Alberta every year for cropping or for seeding to pasture. A portion of this annual acreage is cleared from virgin bush either to tidy up fence or boundary lines or to improve the size or shape of fields.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR COW-CALF SUPPORT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Cow-calf producers who qualify for the cow-calf support program have only a few days left in which to submit their applications.

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, extended the deadline for applications under this program to January 31, 1977, from December 31, 1976, so that cow-calf producers who were affected by the recent changes in the program would have more time to complete their applications.

One of the changes is that a cow-calf producer's taxable income can now be averaged over the two taxation years immediately preceding September 1, 1976. The other concerns cow-calf operators who disposed of or lost eligible cows between January 1, 1976 and September 1, 1976. These people may be eligible for a support payment if the cows were destroyed by fire; if the herd was contaminated by a disease classed as a name disease in the Animal Diseases Act, and the eligible cows were destroyed; or if a serious health problem prevented the applicant from maintaining his herd.

The extension was also intended to give cow-calf operators who did not realize that they qualified for the program time to get their applications in.

Mr. Moore suggests that anyone who has questions concerning his eligibility for the program should contact his district agriculturist as soon as possible.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRAY ANIMALS ACT

Alberta's new Stray Animals Act, which became law in early January, is intended to protect Albertans from the problems caused by stray animals.

It replaces the Domestic Animals, Municipalities and I.D. Stray Animals Act and makes it legal for livestock to be impounded under the authority of an inspector in any suitable facility. Since the entire province is now one pound district, as opposed to numerous pound districts, it is illegal to allow livestock to run at large anywhere in the province. All RCMP officers, brand inspectors and some personnel from the Alberta forest service have been designated as inspectors with the power to impound stray livestock.

Because these people know how to identify livestock, it is anticipated that a large number of stray animals will be returned to their rightful owners.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

J.S. Lore, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Ross Gould to the position of livestock supervisor of beef cattle.

In his new position, Mr. Gould will be responsible for developing and administering programs designed to support and improve beef cattle production in Alberta.

He was born and raised on a mixed farm at Rosalind, in the county of Camrose. Following completion of highschool at Rosalind, he attended Vermilion College for two years. He then enrolled at the University of Alberta and graduated in 1956 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). His area of specialization while at the university was livestock nutrition and genetics.

After thirteen years of experience in a family farm partnership, Mr. Gould joined Alberta Agriculture as district agriculturist at Stettler. He served in that position until his present appointment.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BRANCH APPOINTMENT

Les Reid, director of Alberta Agriculture's farm development division, has announced the appointment of Gary Miller to the position of head of the agricultural services branch.

As head of this branch, Mr. Miller will be responsible for administering government grants to municipalities in excess of $2 million and for developing and evaluating municipal farm management programs. He will act as a liaison between Alberta Agriculture and agricultural service boards and agricultural development committees. In addition, Mr. Miller will be Alberta Agriculture's emergency planning officer and the Disaster Compensation Committee's representative.

He was born near Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta. He graduated in 1966 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in plant science. Following graduation he worked for the plant products division of Agriculture Canada in Vancouver. A year later he went to the International Nickel Company in Sudbury, Ontario, where he was employed in land reclamation and park development work.

Mr. Miller joined Alberta Agriculture in 1968 and became district agriculturist at Evansburg. Later he was employed as regional plant industry supervisor at Fairview and then as supervisor of field services in Edmonton.

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AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Wilson Loree, head of the farm business management branch, has announced the appointment of Neal Oberg to the position of agricultural economist in the farm planning section of the branch in Edmonton.

Mr. Oberg's responsibilities will include developing decision making aids for Alberta farmers, with special emphasis on livestock system planning.

Born and raised on a farm in the Forestburg area, Mr. Oberg graduated from the University of Alberta in 1972, having majored in agricultural economics. Following graduation he and his father farmed 2,800 acres of wheat, rapeseed and feed grains. There was also a feedlot and a beef breeding herd on the farm. During this period, Mr. Oberg was an active member of his local wheat pool advisory committee and of several community organizations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

John Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointments of two district agriculturists and three assistant district agriculturists.

Manning Office

Richard Bradford has been appointed district agriculturist at the Manning office. He came to Alberta in early 1974 from Quebec and has since been a rural development officer in the Vegreville extension office. Mr. Bradford obtained a degree in geography in 1971 and his B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1973 from the University of Guelph. He specialized in resource management for his agricultural degree.

Rimby Office

Robert Gould has been appointed district agriculturist at Rimby. He is a native of Roselind and attended the Vermilion College. Following graduation from Vermilion College, he enrolled at the University of Alberta and obtained his B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1972. After teaching farm management courses for Canada Manpower, he joined Alberta Agriculture in 1974 as assistant district agriculturist at Medicine Hat. He later became district agriculturist at Bonnyville.

Lacombe Office

John VanKuelen has been appointed assistant district agriculturist at Lacombe. A native of Holland, he has just completed his M. Sc. (agriculture) at the University of Alberta where he specialized in animal science. As an undergraduate he worked for a summer in the Evansburg extension office as an assistant district agriculturist. Prior to that he worked at Western Canadian Seed Processors in Lethbridge. His early training included a diploma in agriculture from Holland.

Medicine Hat Office

Trevor Robertson has been appointed assistant district agriculturist at Medicine Hat. He comes from a cattle and grain farm in Australia and received his

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District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

agricultural degree last year from Laws College in Queensland. Mr. Robertson has combined this training with practical experience on farms in three Australian states, in New Zealand,and, since coming to Canada, in southern Alberta.

St. Paul Office

Rafique Islam comes from Bangladesh where he took his bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture, having specialized in soil science. Following graduation, he worked in extension in Bangladesh for three years, and then went to Japan where he took his doctoral and post-doctoral degrees. Mr. Islam's experience ranges from marketing and management to rural development work involving public participation.

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CORRECTION: The first sentence of the third paragraph of "Spring Pruning Course" (January 17 issue of Agri-News) should read "The first two courses will be held simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton on March 8 & 9. NOT 10 & 11 as stated.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A TURKEY NEST DAM

Part of the 25-acre turkey nest dam in Queensland, Australia.

Drainage sump and pumping unit for filling and emptying the turkey nest dam.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Turkey Nest Dam (cont'd)

Have you heard of a turkey nest dam? It is constructed on the same principle as a dugout but is very much larger and is used in Australia to collect water for irrigation.

Alberta Agriculture's assistant extension director, Charlie Cheshire, visited one in Queensland on a recent trip to Australia and feels that the same concept could be used on the Prairies to collect the spring run-off.

Turkey nest dams, named after Australia's wild turkey which makes itself a hollow in the soil, are located in a slight depression in an otherwise flat stretch of land. The maximum excavation in the dam, visited by Mr. Cheshire, was 20 feet below the surface of the ground. The surrounding bank was 12 feet above the ground, and the dam covered 25 acres of land. Its capacity is 300 acre-feet of water, and there is a small island in the middle to break the wave action during wind storms.

The water in the dam comes from a collection ditch which runs around the perimeter of the farm. It is filled from wells and from flash rain storms. A drainage ditch connects the collection ditch to the drainage sump, located just outside the dam. From the drainage sump, the water is pumped into the dam.

About half the water in the dam comes from wells and the other half from rain water. Prior to construction of the dam six years ago, the water from flash floods ran off the land into shallow streams and was lost. Now it and the well water are used to irrigate over 600 acres of crops. The water table, which had been falling when only 300 acres of crops were irrigated by the conventional method, now appears to be stabilized. The dam is emptied and refilled twice a year.

The versatile pumping system can be used to fill the dam and irrigate the fields at the same time. Since the water drains off the land into the collection ditch, there is never any waste of water when a field is over-irrigated. According to Mr. Cheshire, the system has proved so successful that six neighboring farms have now constructed similar dams.

A Turkey Nest Dam (cont'd)

What about the cost of constructing a turkey nest dam? Six years ago the excavation cost of the dam Mr. Cheshire saw was $10,000 (Canadian) and the pumping system cost about $10,000. Even with the rise in costs since then, the dam appears to be a very economical proposition.

Mr. Cheshire thinks that the turkey nest dam concept warrants serious study as a possible way of saving most of the water that is lost each spring when the snow melts. "At the present time," he says, "we do not use more than 20 per cent of our winter precipitation. A 'water harvesting system' similar to that used in Queensland would allow us to use the other 80 per cent during the growing season. Also, if construction costs here are comparable with those in Australia, this type of dam would mean that irrigation could be used in parts of the province where it is not economically feasible to bring water in by irrigation pipes or ditches. Another advantage of this type of reservoir is that the owner has full control over the water he uses and the time when he uses it."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USING WASTE ENERGY FOR INFLATABLE GREENHOUSES

Dr. P. G. Glockner, head of the University of Calgary's department of mechanical engineering, has undertaken a research project designed to use the exhaust from compressor station gas turbine engines to inflate and heat inflatable plastic greenhouses.

The project, which received a grant from the Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company Limited, is being carried out in two phases. The first, already underway, involves establishing the feasibility of using waste energy from a compressor station turbine to provide the pressure, heat and carbon dioxide-enriched atmosphere for an inflatable greenhouse.

It is well-known that plants grow faster in an atmosphere enriched with the carbon dioxide that is present in the exhaust gases of any combustion or gas turbine engine. There is, however, one problem associated with the use of exhaust gases to grow plants. It is the presence of traces of nitrogen dioxide and nitrogen oxide, both of which are detrimental to plants.

The University of Calgary engineers are hoping to find a way to remove these gases from the exhaust before it is circulated in the greenhouse. If this proves impossible, they will pump the exhaust gases into an enclosed space between the outer wall of the inflatable greenhouse and an inner wall made of polyester sheeting. Previous research carried out at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, has shown that six-mil polyethylene is less pervious to nitrogen dioxide and nitrogen oxide than to carbon dioxide, thereby allowing the carbon dioxide to pass through the membrane into the greenhouse.

To achieve their research objectives, Dr. Glockner and his team are planning to erect a small, more or less standard-design, inflatable structure, made of transparent poly-vinyl chloride sheets, near a compressor station of a gas pipeline in the Calgary area. The greenhouse will be reinforced with cables and kept inflated by an inside air pressure that is slightly higher than that of the outside environment. The design incorporates ducts, heat exchangers and a

- (cont'd) -

Using Waste Energy for Inflatable Greenhouses (cont'd)

ventilating system to control the internal temperature, humidity and the concentration of exhaust gases. The engineers intend to monitor the effect of sunlight, wind and snow on the plastic material used to cover the greenhouse.

The second phase of the project, scheduled to begin in September 1977, will include a study of possible new designs of inflatables that use transparent plastics of relatively low strength for enclosing large-scale greenhouses and large agricultural areas. Up to now, large inflatables have proved too unstable to be practical, but the university engineers hope to overcome this problem by the use of a network of cables and a number of other innovations.

Dr. Glockner foresees the day when it will be possible to enclose several hundred acres of agricultural land with inflatables. "They could be put up", he says, "in April and taken down at the end of May and then put up again at the end of August and taken down at the end of October or in early November. In addition to extending the growing season, such a practice would greatly increase the life of the plastic covering. An extension of three or four months to our growing season would mean that we could grow almost any crop that grows in the moderate climates of certain parts of the United States and in Europe."

Dr. Glockner also envisages inflatables being used for drying lumber and grain and for providing heated enclosures for hogs and poultry.

How about the costs associated with inflatables compared with conventional buildings? According to Dr. Glockner, some inflatables now on the market cost $8 to $10 per square foot compared with $40 to $60 per square foot for the average house and $10 to $15 per square foot for some conventional type industrial buildings.

The engineers at the University of Calgary are planning to use a new translucent plastic product, manufactured in Winnipeg, for their large agricultural inflatables. They will be made of panels that are zippered together so that they can be put up and taken down with a minimum of effort and time. "With this type of construction", says Dr. Glockner, "it should be possible to put up an inflatable that covers several hundred acres of land for considerably less than $1 per square foot."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A REVOLUTIONARY ALFALFA STRAIN

If Ellerslie I, a new alfalfa strain, is licensed by the federal government this year, it could mean a resurgence of an almost vanished alfalfa seed industry in northern Alberta, and a great upsurge in alfalfa seed production in the rest of the province.

The unique characteristic of Ellerslie I is its self-pollinating ability. In fact, it is the only alfalfa strain in the world that has maintained this self-pollinating characteristic through successive generations.

Alfalfa is one of 60 members of the medicago group of plants, found in such Mediterranean countries as Turkey, Lebanon, Greece, Spain and Morocco and in North Africa. Apart from alfalfa most are self-pollinating, but their disused cross-pollinating mechanism is evidence that this was not always the case. Since other plants in the group had developed from cross-pollinating to self-pollinating species, there seemed no reason why alfalfa could not also become self-pollinator either through natural selection or plant breeding.

It is this self-pollinating ability that enables Ellerslie I to produce two to four times as much seed as the regular alfalfa strains where there are no pollinating insects. It has outyielded such varieties as Grimm and Ladak in tests carried out at the University of Alberta's Parkland Farm and at Ellerslie, near Edmonton. It is now being tested in northern and southern areas of the province. Results from these tests should be available within the next year or two.

If Ellerslie I performs as well in northern Alberta as it has done in the Edmonton area, it could revive the alfalfa seed production industry in that part of the province. Production has almost died out since land clearing and cultivation have destroyed the native bumble bee's natural habitat. Most of Alberta's alfalfa seed is now produced in southern Alberta where growers use domesticated leafcutter bees to pollinate their crops. Leafcutters cannot be used in northern areas because they will not work when

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A Revolutionary Alfalfa Strain (cont'd)

the temperature falls below 20° C., and honey bees avoid alfalfa blossoms because they do not like the tripping mechanism of these flowers.

The person who developed this revolutionary alfalfa strain is Dr. Karl Lesins, professor emeritus of the University of Alberta's department of genetics. As a supervisor in a Latvian agricultural college in the 1930's, he became interested in the medicago plants. He later continued his research at a Swedish plant breeding station where he worked from 1945 to 1951 before emigrating to Canada. He arrived at the University of Alberta in 1951 with about 400 bottles of seed. Since then he has made seven expeditions to Mediterranean countries collecting seed. His present stock of 3,000 bottles, 200 related to alfalfa, represents the most complete collection of the medicago genus in the world.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK GUARD DOGS

Have you heard of a komondor? It is a type of livestock guard dog whose ancestry goes back 6,000 years.

Reference is made to this breed on a clay tablet found in the Middle East, and dating back to 3,900 B.C. At that time the dogs were apparently used to guard livestock in that part of the world.

According to Tom Seaborn, who breeds komondors, and who is Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, these dogs have been bred almost exclusively to protect livestock against predators. He says they are intelligent and easily trained, and that their main traits are predictability, tolerance, caution and loyalty. They are also good with children.

Komondors are often described as 'mop-like' dogs because they have long guard hairs which hang down rather like a cord. These 'cords', which can be a foot long, protect the dog against adversaries and provide him with insulation against both heat and cold. Komondors are white and weigh from 75 to 125 pounds.

"A komondor", says Mr. Seaborn, "will not herd cattle or sheep as well as a border collie -- they were not bred for this -- but as guard dogs for livestock, they are unsurpassed. We usually run two dogs with our cattle and sheep, but this does not necessarily mean that they work as a pair. Often each dog will go off to a different part of the farm where he patrols the animals, regardless of whether they are in the open or in the bush. However, if one dog needs help, the other will immediately go to his aid.

Although the concept of flock or herd guarding by dogs is an old one, many people are loath to use dogs for this work because of a bad previous experience with dogs among livestock. However, according to Mr. Seaborn, komondors are completely reliable with livestock and are happiest when 'living in the pasture' with their charges.

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Livestock Guard Dogs (cont'd)

Here they stay on duty day and night. If anyone or anything enters their territory, they will 'tree' it, chase it out or, if necessary, kill it. Mr. Seaborn claims he has never lost an animal to coyotes, dogs, bears or human trespassers from his farm, which is located 40 miles west of Red Deer.

He recommends training a komondor puppy in the basic commands and familiarizing him with his territory. As the puppy gets older, he will automatically take charge of the territory and the animals in it. "He will guard both with his life," Mr. Seaborn says,"and if you move the animals from one place to another without 'telling' him, you are very likely to find them back in their original location when you next visit them."

In essence, a komondor needs very little training. Once he reaches maturity, he simply does what comes naturally, which is to protect his charges against all predators including coyotes and wolves.

According to Mr. Seaborn, the United States Department of the Interior started using komondors on an experimental basis for predator control work three years ago. In one case they put four of the dogs on a large ranch in Texas where the owner had lost a great many calves to coyotes. In no time, there were no coyotes to be seen on the ranch and no more calves disappeared.

Komondors have apparently proved so successful at controlling predators in those parts of the United States where they have been used that the American National Cattlemen's Association has now set up a komondor predator control committee in conjunction with their helicopter and cyanide control committees.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS AND COUNSELLORS

Do you need help in making financial plans for your farming operation or with your retirement plans?

These are just two of the many areas that are covered by Alberta's rural development officers and counsellors. The province has about 20 of these people working under the Small Farm Development Program which is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada.

The rural development officers are located at Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Vermilion, Barrhead and Fairview. The counsellors work out of a number of district extension offices. Some counsellors cover three or four districts.

The rural development officers are mainly concerned with large community development projects and with planning and organizing seminars. An example of a community development project might be the planning and organizing of a farmers' market in an area where there is a surplus of garden produce.

The counsellors help with the seminars which cover a wide variety of topics. For active farmers they include financial planning, partnerships, other farm business arrangements and decision making workshops. In some areas the counsellor helps the district agriculturist or home economist with short courses on credit, bookkeeping, changing a farm operation, farm labor problems,etc.

The seminars designed for farmers intending to retire cover such topics as estate planning, wills, gifting property, willing property, taxation, pensions, renting a farm, selling a farm, housing (types and location), recreational activities, employment opportunities, other careers and general retirement planning.

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Rural Development Officers and Counsellors (cont'd)

Most seminars on the above topics are three to four days long. Attendance varies, but it is not unusual to have a turnout of 50 to 60 people from the community,

In addition to the group involvement, the counsellors provide information and counselling on an individual basis. This part of the work may involve personal counselling on communication problems among family members, on the necessity of changing a life style, the 'pros' and 'cons' of moving out of the community upon retirement and so on.

The rural development counsellor at Thorhild, Walter Preugschas, says "I have provided information and helped cut through red tape in several cases where another agency has been involved in a personal problem and in problems concerning the physically or mentally handicapped."

Mr. Preugschas also says the response which the rural development officers and counsellors have encountered from other agencies and the farmers in their areas has been extremely co-operative and most encouraging.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING PLASTIC PIPE FROM FREEZING

This is the season when water lines, particularly those under walkways and driveways, are likely to freeze. It is at this time of year that the frost usually penetrates to its maximum depth.

Ken Williamson, Alberta Agriculture's technologist at Leduc, says the messy, and often very frustrating, job of thawing out plastic water lines, especially those feeding into automatic livestock waterers, can be prevented through the use of a plastic pipe heating kit.

These kits contain a seven-foot cold extension lead, a special pipe insert and a 37 to 250-foot heating cable. The cable is inserted into the plastic pipe and connected to the electrical power source. The power can be switched on either manually or by a thermostatically controlled switch. The temperature control is set so that the cable will not become hot enough to damage the plastic pipe.

According to Mr. Williamson, these plastic pipe heating kits can be inserted into one or two-inch plastic pipe at a cost of about $1.50 per foot.

Information on thawing frozen water lines and livestock watering equipment can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's engineering technologists and district agriculturists.

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January 31, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MACHINERY COSTS AS A GUIDE TO CUSTOM RATES

Have you ever wondered how much you should charge your neighbor for custom work? Are you aware that if you use your 200 horsepower, 4 wheel-drive tractor for only 300 hours a year it will cost you $32 an hour compared with $22 an hour if you use it for 600 hours a year? If it costs you $23 per hour to own an eight-bottom plow which you use for only 80 hours a year, would you be better off leasing?

Answers to these and many other questions may be found in an updated version of "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates", compiled by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Intended as a basis for farm machinery decisions, the publication provides a breakdown of fixed and variable costs based on November 1976 costs for selected farm implements. It also contains machinery cost calculation worksheets for the person who wants to calculate his own costs as they relate to his specific situation.

"Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" compliments "Farm Machinery Costs, January 1976", (compiled by the production economics branch) which contains a more detailed breakdown of costs.

Copies of "Farm Machinery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates" and of "Farm Machinery Costs, January 1976" can be obtained from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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January 31, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Do you want to know more about the factors that make farming one of the most hazardous occupations in North America? If so, all you have to do is to get a group of 10 or more rural people together and request a farm safety workshop in your area.

Alberta Agriculture is prepared to conduct farm safety workshops for agricultural societies, farm organizations and farm groups anywhere in the province in an attempt to focus people's attention on the urgency of the farm accident problem and its socio-economic impact on the families of farm accident victims. The decision to hold these workshops resulted from the preliminary findings of the department's Farm Accident Monitoring System,which showed that there is a real need to educate many farm people on the causes and prevention of farm accidents.

Those who take part in these one-day workshops will participate in group discussions on the economic consequences of farm accidents from the point of view of reduced production, lost work days and lost income. Case studies of past accidents will also be used to show how accidents happen and how they affect the farm family.

Films will be used to illustrate the factors that cause farm accidents and the measures that can be taken to prevent them. Among the factors that cause accidents are an individual's nature, his frustrations and conflicts at work and at home, his overall attitude towards work and life in general and the way he goes about doing his work.

If you have a group that would like a farm safety workshop in your area, contact Solomon Kyeremanteng, Farm Development Division, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone 427-2186).

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January 31, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TANNING SHEEP SKINS

"You can get a white, pliable sheep skin with home tanning, but it takes work!", says Kelly Handy, who spent last summer researching tanning methods for Alberta Agriculture.

Skinning

Skinning should be done as soon as the animal has been slaughtered and it should be done in such a way that the skin is as free as possible of flesh and fat, but not cut or otherwise damaged. Use a short, sharp knife to make the initial incision in the skin and then use a closed fist as much as possible to punch the skin off the carcass.

After the skin has been cooled slowly and evenly, lay it out flat and pour fine salt onto the centre. Then rubbing well, work the salt out towards the edges of the skin. Fold the skin in half and roll it up, leaving it like this for 24 hours.

Fleshing

It is a good idea to leave the salt on the skin while fleshing, although it will mean sharpening your knife more often. Fleshing entails removing all traces of flesh, blood, fat and membrane from the skin. It is much easier to flesh a skin if you put it on a curved surface such as a large log which is lying on its side.

Proper fleshing tools are available from taxidermy supply houses, but a butcher knife works reasonably well, providing you are careful not to score the hide with the point. The fleshing operation has to be repeated several times and the skin should be well salted, folded and rolled up between each operation. A hacksaw works very well for breaking up and removing any remaining membrane during the last stage of fleshing. When fleshing has been completed, resalt the skin, lay it out flat in a cool, dry place and allow it to dry for three days.

— (cont'd) —

Tanning Sheep Skins (cont'd)

Washing

Soak the skin for two hours in soft water (always use soft water when possible in the tanning process). If you leave the skin soaking for longer than two hours the wool will detach itself from the skin. Next, spray the wool with a high pressure spray to remove the dirt, and wash it in eight to 10 gallons of water to which has been added one tablespoonful of borax per gallon of water and a small amount of mild soap. Then rinse the skin several times until the water is clear. Spin-dry the skin or hang it in the shade (never expose a skin to direct sunlight) until most of the water has dripped off it. If you run a stick over the wool side of the skin, you will speed up removal of the water. Then, blot the wool dry.

Tanning

Stretch the skin on a wooden frame. Heat 1 1/4 gallons of water, add 1 1/2 pounds of alum (potassium aluminum sulphate) and 1 1/2 pounds of pickling salt and stir well. When the solution clears, pour about a pint into a covered container. Then add enough whole wheat flour to the remaining solution to make a medium thick paste (not runny or doughy) and spread it (1/8" to 1/4" thick) on the stretched skin. Now cover the skin completely with any type of cloth that will allow it to breath. Leave it for four to seven days, keeping the paste moist by sprinkling it with some of the solution that was put aside in the covered container.

After three or four days, scrape off the paste and apply another coat, leaving it for another three or four days. Repeat this process until all the paste has been used up. When you apply the last coat, leave the skin uncovered and allow it to dry. Then remove as much of the paste as possible and rinse the skin in a solution of baking soda and water (four ounces to 10 gallons). Now remove the excess moisture from the skin as you did after washing it.

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Tanning Sheep Skins (cont'd)

While still damp, stretch the skin on a sheet of plywood and melt half a bar of Sunlight soap in a double boiler (the addition of a little water helps). Then rub the melted soap well into the skin, and allow it to be absorbed by the skin for several hours. Next, heat a small quantity of Softol oil and spread it thinly and evenly over the skin. Rub it in well with your fingers.

The skin is ready to be staked when it turns white when stretched (at this stage it is still damp but not wet). Staking entails pulling the skin (skin side down) back and forth over an upright stake which has been slightly rounded on top and tapered to an eighth of an inch thick . Any stretching, pulling and twisting at this stage will help to soften the skin.

If the oil that was worked in to the skin during the finishing process has slightly darkened the skin, or if the skin is still somewhat stiff, lay it out flat and apply a solution of warm water and a little borax to the flesh side with a nail brush. Scrub the solution in well, stretch the skin on the plywood and re-stake it when the skin turns white when stretched.

When the skin is dry, sand it with coarse sandpaper. Sanding softens and whitens the skin. Then comb out the wool with a wire dog brush or a large toothed-comb and your sheep skin is ready for use.

Alberta Agriculture's sheep branch has a collection of tanning techniques, submitted by people who have used them, but none of the techniques have been officially tested yet. However, Alberta Agriculture is planning to publish a book later this year on handicrafts related to the sheep industry.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED STUDY GROUP RELEASES REPORT

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced receipt of a report prepared by an inter-provincial forage seed study group.

An Alberta-B.C. forage seed council, sponsored by both the Alberta and British Columbia provincial governments and composed of representatives from each industry sector (producer, trade, government), was the major recommendation of the report.

Mr. Moore said he is awaiting further industry response to the report before he makes any decision on the recommendations.

Started in July 1975, the forage seed study group evolved in response to a forage seed study proposal. Composed of members from Unifarm, the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, the Western Canadian Seed Trade Association, the Government of Canada and the Alberta-B.C. governments, the group was co-ordinated by Marcel Maisonneuve of McLennan, Alberta.

During the last 18 months the forage seed study group sampled producer and industry opinions toward establishing a forage seed commission.

In the opinion of the report, poor response to 2,500 mailed questionnaires prevented the group supporting the creation of a forage seed commission. In addition, the group noted that a low turnout at 10 local meetings between March and June 1976 left the impression a commission would be met with mixed reaction at best.

In fact, poor response was a significant factor in all aspects of the study. However, of those producers who did reply, 58 per cent expressed approval of a forage seed commission.

As an alternative, the forage seed study group proposed a council which would provide an attractive vehicle for discussing and developing solutions to forage seed industry problems. In addition, it could advise on government agricultural policy,

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Forage Seed Study Group Releases Report (cont'd)

act as a liaison between each industry sector and prepare and distribute resource material to growers, processors and governments.

The report also recommended the council should be enacted for three years after which time its progress would be evaluated by the two provincial agriculture ministers.

Further information on the report is available from co-ordinator Marcel Maisonneuve, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8, (Telephone 427-5357).

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INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS' SEMINAR

"The Impact of International Marketing on Western Canadian Agriculture" will be the subject of a one day seminar at the University of Calgary on March 24.

Sponsored by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, the seminar will feature speakers from industry, government and university levels. Speakers so far confirmed include Dr. C.F. Bentley, department of soil science, University of Alberta and H. Hanna, assistant deputy minister of marketing, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton.

Registration fee is $30 and is payable to:

AIA Seminar
P. O. Box 2500
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2N1

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February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINAL 1975-76 WHEAT POOL PAYMENTS

by John Channon
Chairman, Alberta Grain Commission

Why are the Canadian Wheat Board's final payments, especially for wheat, so low? This is the question thousands of Alberta farmers are asking.

The best source of information on how payments for grain are arrived at, is, of course, the wheat board itself. No doubt they will explain everything to the Standing Committee on Agriculture in Ottawa when they present their annual report to parliament later this year. In the meantime, they appear to be unwilling to explain the situation to anyone.

The board announces their asking price for each grade of grain daily. Some people have listed, or graphed, these prices for each day of the crop year, believing that the final payment should bear a close relationship to these daily asking prices. Unfortunately, the relationship is quite rough and liable to shock the analyst using this technique, especially if he is a grain farmer who has just been advised of the final payment.

There are quite a few reasons that would explain the difference between the expected final price for wheat and the actual price paid by the board.

One would be the protein content for which the board quotes price spreads based on the protein content. The board pays out on the basis of grade, for instance No. 1 Canada Western Red Spring Wheat (1CWRS). However they sell, and collect, on the basis of three levels of protein, each having its own price. Hence, a person would have to know how much of each protein content was sold at what price in order to get the weighted price for 1CWRS.

Another factor to consider is what volume was sold at the Vancouver price and what volume at the Thunder Bay price. This is fairly easy if you know that about 45 per cent of the wheat board's shipments go out via Vancouver. Even so it still gives only a rough calculation.

Then, of course, there has to be a calculation done according to the price each day. This is very difficult to determine; only the wheat board knows how much was sold at each price. During the sales accounting period, the asking price for 1CWRS 13 1/2 per cent protein

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Final 1975-76 Wheat Pool Payments (cont'd)

ranged from a high of $5.76 a bushel to a low of $3.23 a bushel. This $2.53 a bushel range is unusually wide.

There is also the matter of transferring unsold deliveries from the closing pool to the opening pool. This happens at each end of the pool and is always an awkward problem. The wheat board has the discretion to arrive at the price to be applied to the volume of grain being transferred. I don't know exactly how they do this. No doubt they look at what they know, that is the price on the transfer date. They also look at the price prospects over the life of the new pool, and they adjust the transfer price accordingly.

Unfortunately, when the 1975-76 pool opened, the world price was very high -- around $5.75 per bushel for No. 1CWRS. So the price assigned to the grain being transferred into the 1975-76 pool must have been high. This, of course, would be a debit to the 1975-76 pool, and the participants in the previous pool would have received the benefit of this high payment. When the 1975-76 pool closed, the world price was $2.50 a bushel lower than at the opening. Thus, this pool lost a considerable amount of money on the two transfers. I hasten to point out that the loss was on paper, and that grain farmers in the aggregate did not suffer any loss. What they lost on one pool would be offset by what they gained on adjacent pools.

The board's cost of doing business comes to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 12¢ to 15¢ a bushel and, of course, must be taken into account.

One of the major reasons for the low final payment is the high initial payments that prevailed throughout the 1975-76 crop year. Those who pressure the government and the wheat board to set high initial payments must be ready to accept low final payments. The higher the initial payment, the more the wheat board has to borrow from the banks and thus the more interest they have to pay. This goes to reduce the board's profit, and, thus, to reduce the final payment. The 1975-76 initial payments were at record highs.

The idea that high initial payments would siphon grain from the open market sector to the board is a self-defeating one, and is not in the best interest of the grain farmer.

Final 1975-76 Wheat Pool Payments (cont'd)

Perhaps the major fallacy in trying to match up the board's final realized price with their asking price over the crop year is that while the board buys grain during the period from August 1 to July 31, they sell during the period from the close of one pool to the close of the next pool. In other words, the daily asking prices that are likely to approximate the final price are those established between November 1 and October 31. These dates vary from year to year, depending upon when the board is able to close the pools. This lag between buying period and selling period is an important factor in explaining the difference between the final realized price and the average of asking prices over the crop year.

In Alberta there are three distinct feed grain markets facing farmers. One is the quota market where the farmer delivers his grain to the wheat board. Another is the open market where he sells to the elevator company, and the third is the local feed mill market. On the average, farmers who sold 3CWRS wheat to the feed mills obtained the best return during 1975-76. The open market for 3CWRS provided the next best average return. The two open markets also gave a better return for feed barley than did the wheat board.

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February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SERIOUS GRAIN BEETLE INFESTATIONS

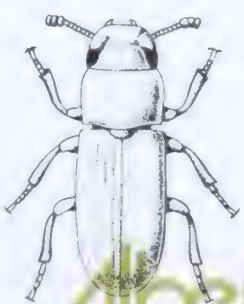
Farmers in southern Alberta are urged to tackle grain beetle infestations now. If the bins are left untreated until spring, the problem in southern Alberta could be very serious.

According to Michael Dolinski, pest control specialist and entomologist with Alberta Agriculture, beetle infestations have been found in all types of cereal grains in the County of Warner and the M. D. of Taber. He believes that the beetles are in bins throughout the southern part of the province, and urges farmers to check their grain every two weeks from now until it is sold.

The present infestation appears to have resulted from the grain having been binned while still warm. Mr. Dolinski points out that there are a small number of beetles in most grain bins which become a problem only when conditions are right for their multiplication. The warm grain sweats in the bin creating moisture which the beetles need to multiply. Convection currents, produced in the bin during winter cooling, then concentrate the moisture in pockets, often near the surface of the grain. However, this does not eliminate the possibility of infestations forming lower down in the bin.

The two main types of beetle involved in southern Alberta's infestation problem are the rusty grain beetle and the red flour beetle. Both can be detected and controlled by the same methods. Several species of fungus beetles may also be present.

Rusty Grain Beetle



Red Flour Beetle

Description of Beetles

Rusty grain beetles are reddish-brown, about one-twelfth of an inch long and have a flat back and fairly long, slim antennae. They are cold hardy, and can survive in non-heating bins.

Red flour beetles are also reddish-brown, about one-sixth of an inch long and have rounded backs and short, stubby antennae. They are not cold hardy and cannot survive in grain when the temperature falls below 4°C.

Detection

There are two methods of checking for grain beetles. One is to take samples of grain from the surface of the grain with your hands and from

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Serious Grain Beetle Infestations (cont'd)

lower levels with a probe, which can be borrowed from most elevator agents. Screen the samples with a sieve and warm the screenings to room temperature before checking for the beetles. It is easier to see the beetles when they become active after having been warmed up and when the screenings are placed on a piece of white paper. A magnifying glass is also a help.

The second method of detection entails the use of an insect trap which you can make out of a piece of pipe. Close off one end, and drill holes the full length of the pipe. The holes should be large enough for the insects to pass through, but too small to allow the entry of grain kernels. About every two weeks open the closed end of the pipe (which should extend to the bottom of the bin) to see how many beetles are in it. You can also use the pipe to check for heating in the grain. The more traps in a bin, the more chance you have of detecting an infestation.

Commercial insect traps are available, at a price of $19.75 each, from Gen Manufacturing Limited, Box 560 Coaldale. They can be attached to the end of a long pipe and inserted into the grain.

Since there can be a large population of larvae in grain with very few adult grain beetles present, Mr. Dolinski recommends that farmers check for larvae. This can be done by putting samples of grain on a screen, placed over a collecting container, and hanging a light bulb close to the surface of the grain. If there are any larvae, the heat from the light bulb will drive them, and any adult beetles that may be present, through the screen into the receptacle below.

Control

If the grain is heating, the best method of control is to move it from one bin to another or onto a tarpaulin on the ground. A fumigant may not completely eliminate the heating problem, if the grain contains actively growing fungi as well as beetles. Recent research has shown that cooling the grain to -6^{o} C. will kill all growth stages in both the rusty grain and red flour beetles. If it is not possible to cool the grain to -6^{o} C., you can treat the grain when augering it back into the bin with Cythion (a special formulation of malathion) to kill any remaining beetles. However, this procedure is not recommended by the Canadian Grain Commission because of possible residues in export grain.

There are solid and liquid fumigants which can also be used for treating infested grain. The solid fumigant, Phostoxin, comes in tablets which can be put into grain that has been

Serious Grain Beetle Infestations (cont'd)

removed from the bin to break up hot spots (as it is being augered), providing the temperature of the grain is above 5° C. The tablets can also be dropped down a one-inch pipe that has been inserted in the binned grain. The pipe should come to within eight feet of the bottom of the bin. As you pull the pipe out of the grain, drop the tablets down every 2 to 3 inches. The recommended rate for treating grain with Phostoxin is 150 tablets per 1,000 bushels of grain, but not more than 10 tablets should be dropped in the pipe at one level. If the pipe is placed in the centre, 150 tablets per 1,000 bushels should be enough to treat the grain in a bin with a 20-foot diameter. The more evenly the tablets are distributed through the grain, the better the results will be.

Liquid fumigants should only be used as a last resort because they are very toxic. They can be sprayed on the grain surface from outside the bin or poured down a pipe that runs from the surface of the grain to the bottom of the bin.

The effectiveness of these products cannot be guaranteed when the grain temperature is below 15° C. Application rates range from two to four gallons per 1,000 bushels, depending upon bin construction and climate. Under Alberta's winter conditions, a rate of three gallons per 1,000 bushels is recommended. Liquid fumigants cost about $8 per gallon.

Mr. Dolinski says Cythion can be obtained from such outlets as Oliver Industrial Supply Ltd. (Calgary and Lethbridge) and Kem San Ltd. of Edmonton. Solid fumigants are available through Alberta wheat pool elevators, but the liquid fumigants can only be obtained through the county office in Warner. Because the liquid fumigants are so hazardous to use, the agricultural fieldman in the County of Warner is prepared to do all liquid fumigations in that county.

Precautions

Great care must be taken during the transportation, application (follow label directions) and storage of fumigants because they are the most toxic of all pesticides. You should always wear a full-face gas mask which has a self contained air supply or appropriate filter when using any fumigant. Always have somebody with you and attach a rope to your waist so that you can be pulled out of the bin if necessary. After you have fumigated a bin, nail or lock it up, close ventillators and post a warning sign on the door. Do not enter the bin until the odor has completely

Serious Grain Beetle Infestations (cont'd)

disappeared ---- this can take six weeks or longer.

Symptoms of fumigant poisoning are dizziness, blurred vision, vomitting and abdominal pains. Anyone who shows these symptoms, should be exposed to fresh air, and a doctor should be called immediately.

Further information on products and methods can be obtained from your agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist.

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CORRECTION: The postal code at the end of the article "Governments Services in Lethbridge Moving to Agricultural Center" (July 17 issue of "Agri-New") should be T1J 4C7; NOT T1J 4B1 as stated.

February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOWL POX

Fowl pox, a virus disease which has not been seen in Alberta for years, if ever, occurred recently in a commercial laying flock.

Dr. John Howell, head of the Alberta Veterinary Services Division's poultry section, says birds can get dry or wet pox. Dry pox consists of scab like lesions that can form on the comb, face, wattles and any other part of the body including the legs. However, the lesions occur most frequently on the unfeathered parts of the bird.

Wet pox occurs on moist skin surfaces such as in the eyes, mouth, nose, gullet and crop and on the tongue. The lesions consist of white, opaque, slightly elevated nodules which increase in size and tend to merge. Wet pox can cause severe difficulty in breathing. When they occur in the eye, they cause blindness.

According to Dr. Howell, pox is usually spread by mosquitoes, which is the reason they are much more prevalent in tropical climates than in cold climates. He says pox occurs in quail, geese, ducks and guinea fowl, but are more common in chickens and turkeys.

The number of birds affected with pox in a chicken or turkey flock can vary from only a few birds to the entire flock. Birds affected with the dry form are more likely to recover than those with the wet form.

Chickens which have fowl pox usually become emaciated and their egg production drops dramatically. Turkeys show a poor rate of gain, and losses are often caused by blindness.

The recent outbreak of pox in Alberta, and the three outbreaks diagnosed in Saskatchewan, occurred in leghorn flocks which had been imported as pullets from the United States. However, several other flocks, also imported from the United States, showed no signs of pox when checked.

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Fowl Pox (cont'd)

Dr. Howell says there is no cause for alarm, but he advises poultrymen who suspect fowl pox in their flock, especially if the flock was imported, to take a number of sick birds to a veterinary laboratory to be checked out.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP PREDATION SITUATION

Lamb production in Alberta continues to decline despite underproduction for the Canadian market of both lamb and wool. Why?

The head of Alberta Agriculture's crop and pest control branch, Joe Gurba, says there are a number of reasons. Among them are the facts that most Western Canadians have little or no experience in raising sheep, the lower status that appears to be attached to sheep production compared with cattle production and the lack of the necessary management skills. However, in some years, and in some areas of the province, high predation losses cause competent sheepmen to go out of business.

Although a survey carried out by crop and pest control branch staff in 1975 shows that the province's average predation losses for sheep and lambs were only 0.7 and 2.7 respectively in that year, these results can be misleading in that they do not show the extremes on the high end of the scale. In the mixed forest areas of northern Alberta, for example, ewe losses on some farms were 7 per cent and lamb losses were as high as 64 per cent. "A sheep producer who sustains losses of this magnitude", says Mr. Gurba, "will soon be out of business if they continue over a prolonged period."

In an effort to eliminate these types of losses, Alberta Agriculture is conducting coyote control programs, in co-operation with 65 agricultural service boards, and has eight predator control specialists working in areas of the province where predators are causing serious problems. Alberta Agriculture's recently introduced Predator Indemnity Program helps sheepmen cope with predator losses by compensating those who have properly documented cases. The compensation rate is 80 per cent of the market value of sheep and lambs killed by any type of predator. In addition, the fish and wildlife division of Alberta Parks, Recreation and Wildlife has intensified its program for controlling wolves, bears and other wildlife predators in areas where these animals are a menace.

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Sheep Predation Situation (cont'd)

Despite these programs, effective predator control is often difficult, especially in parkland and mixed forest areas. Mr. Gurba feels that effective predator loss prevention, and control by sheepmen and government support agencies, need to be maintained and improved wherever possible in 1977.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SUCCESS STORY

Yes, it is possible! The Pincher Creek agricultural society and community hall board have just done it. They have paid off a $45,000 loan they took out only five years ago to build a 10,000 square foot community hall.

"Although the society and the board were very optimistic when they took out the loan, they never dreamed they would be able to pay it off in less than the 10 years allotted to them," says Bob Lyons, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Pincher Creek.

The total cost of the hall was $250,000, made up of the $45,000 loan, a $50,000 provincial grant, a federal winter works grant of $27,000, to cover labor, and $128,000, raised by community service clubs, individuals, industries in the area, town and municipal governments and hall rentals.

According to Mr. Lyons, the past five years were not all roses. "There were important decisions to be made and priorities to be set if the goal that has been set was to be achieved," he says. "The project involved hard work and dedication by a dozen or so individuals and total commitment by both the rural and urban sectors of the community."

During the last five years an average of 10 social functions have been held in the hall each month. These included cabarets, fairs, public meetings, weddings, agricultural events and large dinners.

Mr. Lyons reports that the hall is already booked well into next summer.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR DAIRYMEN

With today's pressure on land use and the increasing investment in livestock facilities, dairy farmers can no longer afford to set up a dairy operation without first considering some basic standards for their facilities and their management practices.

Until now dairy operations have generally enjoyed a good reputation from the point of view of odor nuisance because the cows have been confined in the winter and pastured in the summer. However, present trends towards year-round confinement necessitates a careful look at odor potential when designing a manure handling system.

Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment have compiled a joint set of animal waste management guidelines for farmers who are planning to start a confinement dairy operation or to change their present operation. If followed, these guidelines, known as the Code of Practice, will minimize the possibility of complaints, conflicts and threats against the dairy operation in future years. The Code of Practice is not a regulatory document; it is a set of guidelines which complement the clean air, clean water and public health acts.

Dairymen who meet the standards set out by the Code of Practice will be issued a Certificate of Compliance by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment. It is granted after the operation has been inspected by a regional agricultural engineer and found to meet recommendations pertaining to such things as location, physical structures and waste management methods. A Certificate of Compliance is good insurance against complaints from neighbors.

Further information on the principles of waste management,and on the Certificate of Compliance and the Code of Practice,can be obtained from your regional agricultural engineer, local dairy specialist or district agriculturist.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP DATES

Because reproductive problems and their effect on profits are of major concern to many Alberta dairymen, reproduction will be highlighted at this year's Dairy Herd Improvement workshops.

The one-day workshops will focus attention on the use of records to decrease reproductive problems and on other management practices that will help increase reproductive efficiency.

There will also be up-to-date information on changes in the Dairy Herd Improvement Program as well as on the dairy situation in Alberta. Metric conversion is another topic that will be covered in the workshops.

During the question and answer period, dairymen will have an opportunity to present their ideas on how the service provided by the Dairy Herd Improvement Program could be improved.

Following is a list of the places and dates on which the workshops will be held in different regions of the province.

Riley - Legion Hall	February 15
Heisler - Community Hall	February 16
Edmonton - Conference Room, O.S. Longman Bldg.	February 17
Pincher Creek - District Agriculturist Office	February 22
Picture Butte - Library	February 23
Brooks - Conference Room, Provincial Bldg.	February 25
Rocky Mtn. Hse. - Legion Hall	March 1
Lacombe - Conference Room, Provincial Bldg.	March 2
Red Deer - Public Library, Snell Gallery	March 3
Rimbey - District Agriculturist Office	March 8
St. Paul - Regional High School	March 10
Three Hills - District Agriculturist Office	March 21
Olds - Olds College	March 22
Calgary - District Agriculturist Office	March 23
Barrhead - Lutheran Hall	March 29
Athabasca - Lecture Room, Provincial Bldg.	March 30
Morinville - Conference Room, Provincial Bldg.	March 31

For further information contact your district agriculturist.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
ne (403) 427-2127

February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNER OF AGRI PROM CONTEST

Alberta's lieutenant governor, the Hon. Ralph Steinhauer presented Mrs. Irene Veilleux of Red Deer with a check for $1,000 recently. The presentation was made at the Government Conference Centre (old Government House) in Edmonton.

Mrs. Veilleux was the winner of a grocery bag contest initiated last fall by Agri Prom Association, a promotional group of Alberta food producers and processors, working in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture. The group, whose 30 members represent the large meat packing and chain store companies and small food processors, encourages the consumption and use of Alberta grown and processed agricultural products. It also promotes awareness of the identity and value of these products.

Wilf Walker, Alberta Agriculture's project manager in the food marketing branch, reports that 5.5 million grocery bags, bearing the names of the Agri Prom Association members, were distributed by both large and small grocery stores throughout the province during the period of the contest.

In addition to the cheque presented by Dr. Steinhauer, Mrs. Velleux received $1,000 worth of Agri Prom members' food products, which were presented to her by Dallas Schmidt, M.L.A. for Wetaskiwin.

Mrs. Veilleux's winning entry was one of 10,500 submitted to Agri Prom Association. Another grocery bag contest is planned for next fall to further the awareness of Alberta-grown products.

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February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT CONGRESS

If you are thinking of attending the International Farm Management Congress, scheduled to take place in Hamburg, West Germany, on July 18 to 20, you should register as soon as possible.

People from over 35 countries have already indicated their interest in attending this triennial congress because the basic problems and objectives of farm management are the same around the world. This is true despite the varying conditions in the different countries. The congress is open to all agribusiness personnel, farmers and others interested in farm management.

Topics on this year's agenda include an examination of objectives of farmers around the world, the selection and use of information in farm decision making, examples of decision making in different enterprises in a variety of countries and anticipated developments in world food production. Many of the presentations will be given by farmers.

The agenda will also include a tour of several typical German farms and a tour of the port of Hamburg, one of the world's largest facilities for the shipment of agricultural goods.

The fee for the congress, including the tours, is approximately $70. Each participant is responsible for his own accommodation, but assistance is available from the Hamburg Tourist Centre.

Anyone who attends the congress may also choose any of six study tours that have been arranged for Germany and eastern and western Europe. Fees for the tours, which range from two to eight days, vary according to tour length, etc.

More information on the International Farm Management Congress and information on how to register can be obtained from Wilson Loree, Farm Business Management Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8, (Telephone 427-7321).

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Alberta

Phone (403) 427-2127

February 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MACHINERY APPEAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore has announced the appointment of three new members to the Farm Machinery Appeal Board.

They are Robert Wilde, a farmer from the Taber area; Gordon Campbell, a farmer from Entwistle and John Sawiak, a farmer from Lavoy. Bert Whitton, regional manager of Messey-Ferguson Industries Ltd., Calgary, has been re-appointed for another term.

Dan Manderson, a farmer from the Mundare area will replace Steve Haley as chairman of the board. Mr. Haley's term of office expired at the end of last year. Mr. Manderson has had considerable experience with farm machinery and has served as a member of the board for three years.

The Farm Machinery Appeal Board was established in 1972 to advise the minister of agriculture on matters arising out of operations of the Farm Implement Act. It has also helped farmers to negotiate settlements with farm implement dealerships and manufacturing companies.

Mr. Moore says the new members appointed to the board will provide a cross section of experience from both industry and farmers. A sound background gained from their respective organizations, will permit them to make meaningful recommendations relative to the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of farm machinery.

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AGRI·NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TELEVISION PROGRAM ON PRAIRIE GRAIN INDUSTRY

A one-hour CBC documentary on the Prairie grain industry, entitled "What Breadbasket?" will be telecast at 10 p.m. on Sunday, February 20.

The program will discuss the present grain handling and transportation systems and the nature of the grain business itself It will show, in the opinion of some producers, how these systems are responsible for Canada having fallen behind in its battle to win a share of the lucrative world export markets. The program will also point out some of the unique problems faced by the Canadian grain industry. Among these are the facts that Canada has had to find export markets for a larger proportion (75 per cent) of its crop than any other country, and that the Americans, with their much greater resources, have exploited the growth in world grain markets.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM OUTLOOK

Agriculture provided considerable strength to the Alberta economy in 1976. This trend is likely to continue throughout 1977 although the contribution is expected to be slightly less than last year.

Cash returns to Alberta farmers and ranchers have fluctuated considerably during the past years. These returns from the sale of agricultural products including grain, livestock and livestock products,have varied from just under $600 million in 1970 and 1971 to over $1.8 billion in 1975 and 1976. Forecasts for 1977 suggest cash receipts will drop by $65 million from a current figure of $1.85 billion. It is expected the decline in income will be a result of lower crop receipts that will not be totally offset by an increase in livestock and products income plus stabilization payments. However, calculated that the overall decline will not significantly change the aggregate cash flow of farmers in the province.

On the input side, wages, prices of farm inputs, machinery prices and interest costs are expected to be slightly higher in1977. Although Alberta's net realized farm income is expected to be down 21 per cent in 1977 to $500 million, farm cash receipts are projected to decline only 3.5 per cent. As a consequence, the disposable cash flow in agricultural communities and business centres will not diminish to the extent suggested by the decline in calculated realized net farm income.

For the past several years the grain sector of the agricultural economy has been particularly strong. Forecasts for 1977, considering the world's supply situation for grains, especially wheat, will result in lower returns to producers. Oil seeds, including flax and rapeseed, should provide buoyant markets at home and abroad. Of particular importance in this regard may be the availability the markets provided by the expanded domestic crushing industry.

The cattle business should partially come out of its slump during 1977. Cattle slaughter will be down from the high levels of 1976 and disruptive oceanic beef imports should be lessened. Cash prices of all classes of cattle marketed will improve as the year progresses. This

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Farm Outlook (cont'd)

upward price movement may be somewhat slowed from increased competition from the pork and poultry products. It is anticipated that finished cattle prices may reach $50 per hundredweight at times throughout the year.

Although hog production is not expected to increase significantly in Canada or Alberta during 1977, prices are not likely to reach the highs established in 1976. The main factor in pork prices will remain the U.S. production picture which will limit Canadian prices to highs of $50 to $55. Canada and Alberta will remain on a net import basis for pork.

Alberta sheep and lamb production is expected to be similar to 1976, although a moderate price increase is anticipated.

The dairy situation of 1976 and the cutbacks to industrial milk production appear to be nearly resolved. The changes in quota policies in the latter part of 1976 and the allocation of provincial quotas significantly helped the industrial milk producers. An increase in industrial milk production is not forecast for the first quarter of 1977; however, it is anticipated that within quota limitations, Alberta should be reaching full production potential by mid-summer. Alberta's total fluid milk consumption in 1976 rose by 6 per cent. It is expected that fluid milk consumption will continue to increase although not as significantly as it did in the previous year. Alberta's cheese industry is expected to remain strong as production and consumption of cheese is expected to increase.

The poultry industry in Alberta will continue with basic dependence on the provincial market. The broiler market will increase according to expanding demands in various provincial market areas. The prices will remain stable and broiler producers will continue to receive adequate returns for their product. The turkey outlook also will remain relatively static as Alberta is producing according to provincial requirements. The outlook for eggs is for continued movement towards commercial marketings. Producer prices will remain firm, although a decline in feed prices will cause a corresponding decline in the formula egg price.

For the past few years the production of specialty crops has declined because these enterprises have had a hard time competing with the ease and profitability of grain growing in recent years. The current decline in grain prices and the strong efforts of the alfalfa industry towards

Alberta Farm Outlook (cont'd)

increased production and export market development still cause acreage of alfalfa to be expanded.

Similar to specialty crops such as alfalfa, the forage seed segment of Alberta's agricultural economy has contracted significantly in the past years in favour of increased grains and oil seeds production. Reduced production in both Alberta and competing areas has strengthened the market and provided Alberta producers with good returns in 1976. Prospects for 1977 are for excellent prices. The current decline in grain prices will likely turn producers' interests back to forage production. Scarcity and high seed prices may inhibit extensive planting except for seed production and alfalfa processing contracts.

Mustard seed production in 1976 was at a low point relative to annual fluctuation in requirements. Declining grain prices will likely cause more interest in production of mustard during 1977.

The fresh potato industry has been forced to withdraw from markets outside Alberta because of competition from the northwestern states and partly because of increasing costs of shipping to external markets. The prospects for 1977 and beyond are for static production to meet Alberta domestic requirements. There will be some potential for increasing select baker potatoes for the hotel and restaurant trade and for producing a larger output of seed potatoes for export. The prices in 1977 will rely on crop conditions here and abroad.

The outlook for the vegetable industry in 1977 is good. Increasing Alberta production and higher transportation rates and land limitations elsewhere should cause the domestic producer's share of Alberta's market to increase. The continuing competition from the pacific states, especially in off season supplies and aided by commercial retail connections, is the current hurdle to major expansion in this industry.

It is anticipated there will be little change in sugar production during 1977. Heavy sugar inventories will place a limitation on price increases for 1977. It is unlikely that any major reduction in acreage will occur because the high fixed investment makes other alternatives not as attractive to the sugar beet producer.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Farm Outlook (cont'd)

The market for honey may be somewhat affected by high world honey production and current inventories. It is expected that the 1977 market will be somewhat softer and inventories may increase.

The overall outlook situation for the agricultural economy, although not totally optimistic, is certainly acceptable. The diversity of agricultural production in the province has a significant effect of minimizing the effects of severe or major price changes to the livestock or grain sectors. It must be concluded that Alberta farmers will be looking towards a productive and rewarding year in 1977.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK

Canadian wheat prices in the 1976-77 crop year will almost certainly average below those of the 1975-76 crop year.

Lynn Malmberg, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, expects the final payment to Alberta farmers for the 1976-77 crop year to be in the 20¢ to 30¢ range or less, barring any major production disasters next fall. He also expects initial payments for the crop year beginning August 1, 1977 to be around $1.75 to $2 basis No. 1 Canadian Western Red Spring wheat in store at Thunder Bay or Vancouver or between $1.50 and $1.75 at country elevators. Delivery quotas are also likely to be down somewhat from what they have been in the last few years.

Mr. Malmberg expects the 1977 wheat carryover in the five main exporting countries to reach 61 million tonnes or approximately 42 million tonnes more than the 1976 carryover. Canada opened the 1976-77 crop year with about 8 million tonnes in stocks and produced approximately 23.5 million tonnes for a total supply of 31.5 million tonnes.

Domestic consumption of wheat is expected to be 4.9 million tonnes (the same as last year) and Canadian exports are not expected to surpass the 12.1 million tonnes moved last year. Although the Canadian Wheat Board has made good sales this year, the grain has not actually been moved. By mid-January wheat exports were only 4.4 million tonnes compared with 5.2 million tonnes in the same period a year earlier (about 15.3 per cent less). Because of the slow grain movement so far this crop year, Mr. Malmberg expects wheat exports to be only around 12 million tonnes or less.

"Exports of this level would result in a Canadian wheat carryover of 14.6 million tonnes," he says, "when added to the probable carryover in the other four major exporting countries (Australia, Argentina, United States and the European Economic Community), this level of carryover is likely to result in lower prices than those currently being asked by the wheat board."

- (cont'd) -

Wheat Outlook (cont'd)

A sharp cutback in wheat production, especially in the United States, Canada and the Soviet Union would be necessary to have much impact on prices. U.S. farmers intend to plant only about 90 per cent as much spring wheat as they planted last year, but winter wheat is by far the most important type of wheat grown in that country. Since this acreage was cutback only slightly, yields would have to be considerably below normal to prevent a further increase in the American carryover at the end of the 1977-78 crop year.

Although Statistics Canada will not release their estimates of farmers' intentions to plant until April, current forecasts indicate a 10 per cent decrease in Canada's wheat acreage this year. Mr. Malmberg points out that even a 10 per cent decrease in acreage with average yields would allow for an increase in this country's wheat carryover in 1978 unless exports pick up from this year's probable level.

The Soviet Union is generally a key variable in the world wheat picture. Their record wheat crop in the present crop year was due to better than average harvesting conditions, and their chances of producing another crop of the same magnitude this year seems unlikely. However, since they have increased their winter wheat acreage by about 5 million hectares (one hectare equals 2.2 acres), or more than half of Canada's total wheat acreage, and are probably holding relatively comfortable stocks, they are unlikely to purchase a large volume of wheat during the 1977-78 crop year. The only thing likely to change this situation would be a production disaster of the magnitude of that experienced in 1975. So far winter conditions in the Soviet Union have been mostly favorable,and their winter wheat crop appears to be developing normally.

"In view of the current and projected world wheat stock situation," says Mr. Malmberg, " a substantial upward movement in prices will only occur if a series of below normal yields are recorded, especially in Canada, the United States or the Soviet Union."

February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLES STILL CAUSE HEAVY LOSSES

In spite of the battle Alberta farmers and their local governments have been waging against warble flies over the past five years, an estimated $1.5 to $2 million worth of carcass damage was reported in surveys conducted last spring.

The surveys were conducted by a number of packing plants from late February through May, and the estimates were based on a carcass containing one to five grubs being worth 2.5¢ per pound (dressed weight) less than a grub-free carcass. A carcass containing six or more grubs was estimated to be worth 8¢ per pound (dressed weight) less than an undamaged carcass. This loss would be equivalent to $44 on a 550-pound carcass.

The above losses include meat which must be trimmed off a damaged carcass and an allowance for the fact that the carcass will not bring a premium price because of the grubs. Hides from grubby animals are also de-valued.

Alberta packing plants and Alberta Agriculture have agreed to conduct an even more extensive survey this spring in an attempt to reduce present losses from warbles. Their goal is to obtain information that will enable them to identify those parts of the province where warbles are continuing to cause heavy losses. These areas will then receive special attention in an attempt to persuade cattlemen to put more emphasis on treating cattle next fall with systemic pesticides. There will also be a province-wide re-emphasis of the benefits to the beef industry from effective warble control.

Ross Gould, livestock supervisor for beef cattle with Alberta Agriculture, says the warble picture is not all black and that progress has certainly been made in warble control over the last few years. He reports that the 1976 survey indicates that 26 to 29 per cent of cattle marketed in northern Alberta showed signs of warbles compared with over 50 per cent in 1968. In 1968 warble infested cattle accounted for 44 per cent of the animals marketed in February through May.

What are the benefits from warble control?

They include the fact that warble-free cattle are in more demand than grubby animals. Packers are reluctant to bid on the latter when grub-free animals are available.

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Warbles Still Cause Heavy Losses (cont'd)

Another advantage is that warble-free cattle produce more milk and make better gains than animals that gad around a pasture to escape warble flies in the egg-laying season.

According to Mr. Gould, research has shown that gadding can reduce calf weaning weights by 40 pounds, which represents a loss of $12 to $16 per animal. During the feeding period, warble grubs can reduce gains as much as 0.1 to 0.2 pounds per day if the animals are heavily infested. Over a 120-day feeding period, this loss would be 12 to 24 pounds. Depending on the price, it could represent $4 to $8 per animal.

"With systemic insecticides it is possible to reduce warble populations to very low numbers and even to eliminate them altogether," says Mr. Gould. "All that is required is a concentrated effort on the part of government staff, packers, market operators and farmers."

The first step towards this goal entails treating all infested cattle this spring with a recommended systemic. Any systemic can be used after March 1. According to Mr. Gould, early spring treatment is usually more effective in controlling warbles than late spring treatment. It generally prevents almost all gadding in pastures and feedlots during the summer.

Mr. Gould reports that special inspectors will be checking all cattle at local auction and terminal markets again this year. Any animals with warbles that are not destined for slaughter will be treated before they leave the premises at the owner's expense. Warble infested cattle that arrive at community pastures this summer will be either sent home or treated before they are allowed to enter the pasture, again at the owner's expense.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACTORS AFFECTING OPTIMUM TIME TO SLAUGHTER BEEF CATTLE

Management decisions on the optimum time to slaughter beef cattle to obtain top grades cannot be based on liveweight and breed only. Sex and level of nutrition are also extremely important.

This is the conclusion reached by scientists at the University of Alberta who compared the performance of bulls and steers on diets containing 20, 50 and 80 per cent roughage and which were slaughtered at about 500 kilograms (kg) or about 1,100 pounds liveweight.

The study showed that liveweight gain and feed conversion effeciency were greater in the bulls than in the steers, and that both these factors improved in the two groups of cattle as the roughage level decreased. Feed cost per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of gain was lower for the bulls than the steers.

The dressing percentage at 500 kg liveweight was lower in bulls and steers fed the 80 percent roughage diet than it was in animals fed 50 or 20 percent roughage. The study also showed that carcass fat depth increased as the proportion of grain in the ration increased, and that it was greater in the steers than in the bulls. The loin eye area per 100 kg of carcass weight increased as the roughage level increased and was greater in the bulls than in the steers.

When the carcasses were partially dissected, results indicated a higher proportion of muscle and bone in those from animals which had received high levels of roughage, and a greater proportion of muscle and bone in the bull than in the steer carcasses.

As the roughage level in the diet was increased, the number of fat steer carcasses (grades A2 and A3) decreased, but the number of bull carcasses in the lower grades (B and C) increased.

The scientists concluded that 500 kg was the optimum liveweight for achieving A1 grades only in steers which had been fed 80 percent roughage. To achieve A1 grades, the bulls should have been kept to a higher weight than the steers. Also, both the steers and

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Alberta
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Factors Affecting Optimum Time to Slaughter Beef Cattle (cont'd)

the bulls which were fed lower levels of roughage should have been marketed at a lower live-weight than animals fed higher roughage levels.

The University of Alberta study shows that management decisions involving such things as level of roughage to be fed, and whether or not to castrate, must take into account feed costs, the length of stay in the feedlot (involving changes in overhead costs), expected weight at slaughter and desired carcass grade.

The general principles exposed by the study would probably also apply to the effects of any dietary change resulting in changed daily energy intake and would apply to different breeds or types of cattle as well as to the different sexes.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK QUICK-CURE SOIL SUPPLEMENTS

Beware of "miracle" fertilizers and other quick-cure soil supplements, advises Doug Penny, soils specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

He strongly recommends thoroughly investigating such products before investing in them and comparing the prices with those of conventional fertilizers on the basis of pounds of available plant nutrients. "Many of the products for which fantastic claims are made are very overpriced in relation to the nutrients they contain," he says. "The only way to find out whether a product is overpriced is to calculate the cost per pound of nutrient."

Some dealers selling these "miracle" products base their recommendations and claims on soil sample results that were obtained in Eastern Canada and the United States where the soils are very different to those in Western Canada.

To alleviate this situation a proposal has been submitted under the federal Fertilizer Act that would require so-called miracle fertilizer products and soil supplements to be registered and to have a registration number. When such legislation comes into effect, hopefully in the near future, it will mean that products that bear a registration number have been tested by the federal government and approved for use. Hence, when a farmer sees a product that does not have a registration number, he will know that he should make further investigations.

In the meantime the best thing he can do is to check with his district agriculturist.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL PESTICIDE COURSE

February 21 is the deadline for registering for the annual Pesticide Applicators Course which will be held at Olds College, Olds, Alberta, from March 14-18, 1977. Anyone who registers late will be assessed a $5 late registration fee.

The only one of its kind in Western Canada, the course has been designed to fulfill specific needs in the pesticide industry and each session will be addressed by well-qualified instructors. Training will be offered in the course for the following types of licenses.

- Class A Applicator - a license for the general use or application of pesticides in mainly agricultural or rural areas. Such a license covers the application of pesticides in or on crops, livestock, buildings and shelterbelts.
- Class B Applicator - a license for the general use or application of pesticides by a person employed by a government or public agency.
- Class D Applicator - a specific license to use or apply pesticides to control or prevent the growth of vegetation on land or in water. Examples include the application of a herbicide to a power line, roadside, railway or other rights-of-way and to control aquatic plants.
- Class E Applicator - a specific license to use or apply pesticides from an aircraft.
- Class G Applicator - a license for the general use or application of pesticides in mainly urban or non-agricultural areas. This license covers the use of pesticides on gardens in cities, towns and villages as well as on lawns, shrubs and trees in parks and recreational areas.

The following three types of licenses will not be covered in the course being offered at Olds in March.

- Class C Applicator - a specific license to use or apply seed treatment compounds. (e.g. treatment of seed in a seed cleaning plant).
- Class F Applicator - a license for the general use or application of pesticides in mainly urban or non-agricultural areas. (e.g. the application of pesticides in cities,

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Annual Pesticide Course (cont'd)

towns, villages, parks, recreation areas, public buildings, private dwellings, factories, warehouses and vehicles).

- Class H Applicator - a license specifically to use or to apply pesticides for a special purpose. (e.g. the treatment of cattle for members of a co-operative association or any other situation not covered by class A to G licenses).

Anyone who would like training for these licenses should contact:

Pesticide Chemicals Branch
Pollution Control Division
Alberta Department of the Environment
Oxbridge Place
99 Avenue and 106 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 1C5

Applicants for the course at Olds can register for all or part of it. The registration fee is $5 and the tuition fee, which includes mimeographed notes, will be $6 per day. Although accomodation at the college is limited this year, meals will be available. If room and board are available, the charge will be $6.50 per day.

For further information contact:

The Division of Continuing Education,
Olds College, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION SYSTEM STANDARDS PROPOSED

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has formed a committee to establish standards for irrigation systems across Canada.

At a recent meeting in Calgary, the committee reviewed and suggested changes to a draft proposal submitted by a Lethbridge task force. The meeting was attended by national irrigation specialists and by personnel from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute in Alberta and the provincial government's irrigation division.

"Establishment of national standards for irrigation systems will mean that a farmer can shop around for price estimates and know that all the systems meet the minimum requirements regarding such things as amount of water applied, pressure rating and capacity", says Len Ring, systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division. The proposed standards will also provide equipment dealers with a guide for designing irrigation systems and ensure lending agencies that a system for which they lend money is capable of doing the job.

In addition, the standards will outline installation recommendations and acceptable pressure loss limits within a system. All this means that a farmer who buys an irrigation system that meets the CSA standards will know that it has the ability to do the job for which it was designed.

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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LETHBRIDGE SEED FAIR

The deadline for submitting exhibits to the Lethbridge annual seed fair is February 25.

Last year the fair, in conjunction with Ag-Expo, drew a crowd of 55,000 people. There were 332 exhibits, including 48 junior exhibits, compared with 100 in 1967. When the fair was started in the early 1940's to improve the quality of cereal and forage seed and to inform urban people about the agricultural products produced in southern Alberta there were only 20 classes. Now there are 44.

This year's prize list has six classes in the pedigreed cereal seed category, two in the pedigrees forage seed category and eight in the open class category. Other categories include protein and quality grain classes, pea and bean classes, corn classes, oilseed classes, open hay classes and potato classes.

Winners in each class receive valuable prizes and a special prize is given to the grand champion winner in the grain classes. Exhibitors who are awarded lower placings receive cash prizes.

Copies of this year's prize list can be obtained from any district agriculturist's office.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACREAGE COURSE

Are you planning to enroll in the Alberta Acreage Course, scheduled to start on March 7? It is a nine-week home study course designed to provide acreage holders, and prospective acreage holders, with up-to-date information on acreage development, maintenance and management.

Presented by Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with the University of Alberta, the course includes weekly home study lessons, television programs, newspaper columns, local planning sessions, free soil tests and opportunities to have individual questions answered.

Acreage living provides an opportunity to grow vegetables, to keep horses and other farm animals for your own pleasure and even to supplement your income. However, to make the best use of your land, you need a basic knowledge of these possible pursuits as well as to know whether they are suitable for your area. By obtaining this information before starting your project, or projects, you can save both time and money in the future.

Topics covered in this year's acreage course are: acreage living; site development; soils; shelterbelts; ornamentals; vegetables and fruit; forages; horses and other livestock.

The cost of the course, which you can study at home at your leisure, is only $15. If you wish to enroll contact your agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist or send a cheque (accompanied by a request to enroll in the acreage course) to the Faculty of Extension, Corbett Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2G4.

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Alberta
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February 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACTS ABOUT MICROWAVE OVENS

Alberta Agriculture's district home economists have received numerous requests since Christmas for information on microwave ovens.

The following facts about these ovens were submitted by Betty Birch, district home economist at Stettler.

- As a general rule,you should not use cookware or china with metallic decorations in a microwave oven. The metallic decorations could cause damage to the oven because metal reflects microwaves.
- You can heat food in a china dish in a microwave oven, but before cooking food in a china dish, you should test it in the oven. Put a pyrex measuring cup of water in the oven, to prevent damage to the oven, and then put the empty dish in the oven. If it gets hot, it should not be used for cooking.
- You can use plastic dishes that can be put in a dishwasher for heating food (to serving temperature) in a microwave oven. However, it would be better not to use these dishes for cooking because the temperature of the food could warp them.
- Do not fry or poach eggs in a microwave oven unless you are prepared for a mess. The yokes of the eggs are likely to burst and splatter the oven.
- You can reheat buns and cakes in a microwave oven if you place them on paper to absorb the moisture. If you do not do this, they will be soggy.
- You can prevent bacon and other meats from splattering a microwave oven by covering them with wax paper or paper towling.
- Never turn a microwave oven on when it is empty. In fact, it is a good idea to keep a cup of water in the oven in case someone should turn it on when it is empty.

Families 'on the go' are the ones that will most appreciate a microwave oven. With this type of oven,a plate of food can be refrigerated and reheated quickly for a late-comer without drying out. A working woman or anyone who likes to do her cooking ahead and

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Alberta

Facts About Microwave Ovens (cont'd)

freeze it will also find a microwave oven very useful.

The people who are likely to least appreciate a microwave oven are those who are at home most afternoons to prepare supper, and those who have a large family. Cooking time increases with the amount of food put in the oven. One potato, for example, bakes in about four minutes, but eight potatoes take about 22 minutes to bake.

As far as basic cooking is concerned, cooking time is the only thing that is different from cooking in a conventional oven. This time difference may vary slightly from one model to another.

Ms. Birch says there are some good cookbooks, like the "Sunset Microwave Cookbook" and Madame Benoit's "Microwave Oven Cookbook" on the market.

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AGRI·NEWS

February 2', 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRICULTURE
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February 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUNDS FOR 1976 COW-CALF SUPPORT PROGRAM

Alberta's agricultural minister, Marvin Moore, has announced the details of a special warrant in the amount of $43 million to provide funds for the 1976 Cow-Calf Support Program.

Established in September of last year, the program was designed to give cow-calf producers a measure of financial assistance by providing cash flow for their farming operations. It provides for a grant of $50 per calf on 70 per cent of a cow herd to a maximum of $3,500 per producer. A taxable income provision was included in the program so that the grant plus 1975 taxable income, or the average of 1974 and 1975 taxable income, would not exceed $8,000.

The original estimates were that 23,000 of Alberta's cow-calf producers would be eligible to participate in the program. This number has been surpassed, however, as 25,800 applications have now been received. The total assistance that will be provided is $43 million. It is anticipated that Alberta Agriculture will start forwarding cheques to producers by the end of this month.

Mr. Moore says he is pleased with the good response that the program has received to date as he considers it to be the best in Canada.

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February 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROMOTIONAL DAIRY CAMPAIGN AGREEMENT SIGNED

Alberta's agricultural minister, Marvin Moore, has announced the signing of a new promotional campaign agreement with the Alberta Dairymen's Association.

In a speech to the Alberta Dairymen's Association annual meeting, Mr. Moore indicated that the Alberta government is prepared to continue its support of a milk promotional campaign. The campaign, which began in 1975, was directed at increasing consumption of fluid milk and dairy products. It concentrated its efforts at reaching the consumer through radio, television, newspapers, brochures and billboards.

During 1976 a total of $255,000 was spent in an attempt to reach the consumer. These funds were provided by a contribution of $130,000 from the dairy producers and processors themselves and by an additional $125,000 from Alberta Agriculture. The 1976 campaign received wide support and a great deal of the increase of milk consumption in the province must be credited to that program. The total fluid milk consumption in the province during the past year increased by over 8 per cent.

Producers and processors were so pleased with these results that they have agreed to double their support for future campaigns. Alberta Agriculture has agreed and is also prepared to continue the matching dollar participation for the upcoming dairy year. This should produce a 1977 promotional campaign of approximately $520,000.

Mr. Moore said he hopes that the dairy promotion campaign will continue to achieve success as it has done in the past, and that the consumption of fluid milk and dairy products will continue to increase and benefit Alberta's dairy industry.

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February 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA MAY WITHDRAW FROM NATIONAL EGG MARKETING PLAN

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced the province may be forced to withdraw from the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency Agreement.

Mr. Moore said close to 5 million dozen eggs were imported into Alberta during 1976 because of the inability of the provincial egg marketing board to gain better quotas from the national agency. He pointed out that it is completely unacceptable to tell egg producers here they cannot have larger quotas when large volumes of eggs are being brought into the province from other parts of Canada and the United States.

Federal Agriculture Minister, Eugene Whelan, has been asked by Mr. Moore to intervene and to ensure an increased quota for Alberta so that the province's producers may remain in the national plan.

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February 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCREASED FUNDS FOR FARM FUEL PROGRAM

Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has outlined details of the recently announced $2.6 million special warrant for the Farm Fuel Transportation Allowance Program.

The increased funds are required to cover an expected 20 million gallon increase in fuel eligible for the transportation allowance. During the 1975-76 fiscal year, 207 million gallons were eligible for a transportation allowance of $13,276,000. During that period the farm fuel transportation allowance was increased from 5¢ to 8¢ per gallon to protect Alberta farmers from increasing fuel prices.

During the current fiscal year it is expected that 227 million gallons of fuel will be sold to Alberta farmers. The farmers will benefit from a substantial saving of $18,225,000.

Mr. Moore says it is the government's intention to continue the program and to continue to provide Alberta farmers with the lowest overall fuel costs of any province in Canada.

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February 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PROCESSING PLANT RECEIVES GRANT

Cardston Agricultural Products Ltd, which processes cattle feed, will now be processing hog and poultry feeds as well.

The expansion in the company's operations was assisted by a $47,816 grant under the federal-provincial Nutritive Processing Assistance Program. Shared equally by the provincial government and the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the grant is based on 16 per cent of the expanded facility's total capital cost of $298,853.

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement between the federal and provincial government is designed to provide financial assistance for establishing, modernizing and expanding nutritive processing facilities in Alberta's rural communities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED OUTLOOK

Despite an expected 20 to 25 per cent acreage increase, buoyant markets at home and abroad are forecast for Canadian rapeseed in 1977.

The main factor in the oilseed market is still the United States, which is particularly important in the protein meal sector of the industry because it produces about two-thirds of the world's soybeans. Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, Lynn Malmberg, reports that the current soybean situation is extremely tight in that country, and that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) current forecasts indicate a carryover of only 75 million bushels for the 1976-77 crop year. This volume is approximately half the normal carryover.

"If the present rate of disappearance continues for the rest of the 1976-77 crop year, the U.S. will virtually run out of soybeans," Mr. Malmberg says. "The conclusion then is that to ration consumption, prices for the rest of the year will have to average higher than they averaged in the first five months of the 1976-77 crop year."

USDA planting intentions for soybeans, released January 21, 1977, indicate that as of that date U.S. farmers planned to increase their soybean acreage by 5 per cent compared with 1976. However, actual plantings are likely to be closer to 10 per cent, according to Mr. Malmberg. He points out that the acreage planted to soybeans is closely related to their price relative to other crops. At this time it is reasonable to expect soybean prices to remain strong, and perhaps to strengthen as seeding time approaches.

Although a 10 per cent increase in acreage would, with average yields, increase production by 130 million bushels, the total supply for the 1977-78 crop year, when added to the projected 75 million bushel carryover, would be only 1.47 billion bushels compared with this season's tight 1.51 billion bushels. Under these circumstances one or more of the following events would have to take place to prevent soybean prices from remaining relatively high: the soybean acreage would have to increase considerably more than 10 per cent; yields would have to average well above normal or soybean disappearance would have to fall below its already low

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Rapeseed Outlook (cont'd)

level forecast by the USDA for the current crop year.

Mr. Malmberg believes the first of these three possibilities seems the most likely to happen, especially if soybeans are high in price relative to corn as seeding time approaches. However, even if acreage expansion is greater than 10 per cent, there are reasons to believe that export demand in the 1977-78 crop year could increase enough to offset even a 15 to 20 per cent acreage increase. For example, world livestock numbers will increase by about 2 per cent.

The Soviet Union is another area for speculation. Their announced plan to increase mixed feed production to 77 million tonnes by 1980 from 42 million tonnes in 1975 could, according to world oilseed authorities, increase their soybean imports substantially. This is very possible in light of their excellent wheat crop which reduces their wheat imports, thereby freeing foreign exchange for other imports.

Mr. Malmberg predicts world oilseed meal prices will remain relatively good if normal crop conditions prevail in the U.S. In fact, he says even minor setbacks could have a very 'bullish' effect on prices.

A major world oilseed publication, "Oil World", feels that vegetable oil prices may have bottomed out. Hence, if the U.S. has a normal production season, rapeseed future prices will fluctuate in the $5 to $6 range, possibly going lower for short periods in 1977. Local elevator prices would be 50¢ to 75¢ below these prices. "If 'Oil World's' feelings about the oil market are correct, rapeseed prices could go even higher," Mr. Malmberg says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CREEPING RED FESCUE MARKET GOOD

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist advises creeping red fescue growers in the Peace River region to take advantage of the market opportunities that have resulted from the present fescue seed supply-demand situation, especially in the United States.

Larry Gareau reports that close to record high retail prices are expected for most grass and legume seed this year because of the small crop produced last year in both Canada and the United States. Canada's 1976 production of creeping red fescue is estimated at only 10 million pounds, the smallest in 10 years. The American crop, estimated at 5.5 million pounds, is one of the smallest in recent history. Total supplies of creeping red fescue in Canada are estimated at 27.7 million pounds, and in the United States at 11 million pounds.

Mr. Gareau says, "If we export our usual 16 million pounds of fescue seed this year, Canada's 27.7 million-pound inventory will be reduced to the lowest level recorded since 1974. Domestic usage will reduce the inventory by a further 5 million pounds."

Total production of American kentucky bluegrass, the main lawn grass seed that affects the demand for creeping red fescue, is estimated at only 28.7 million pounds for 1976. This is the lowest production level recorded in a decade. The total bluegrass supply in the U.S. has been estimated at 60 million pounds, or about the same as it was in 1972.

"When all factors are considered, prospects for creeping red fescue growers over the next few years look very favorable," Mr. Gareau says. "Low supplies in North America as a whole, poor winter moisture conditions in the Williamette Valley in the United States and the difficulties U.S. growers are experiencing in burning their fields all add up to strong prices for Canadian creeping red fescue seed in 1977."

However, as a hedge against less favorable market conditions at some future date, Mr. Gareau recommends that all creeping red fescue growers in Canada plant foundation seed this year. He points out that growers will then be able to take advantage of the United Kingdom market as well as the American market. Canada lost the former in 1976 because of the United Kingdom's restrictions on the importation of non-pedigreed seed.

Foundation Boreal creeping red fescue seed can be obtained from the seed trade and from the Canadian Forage Seed Project through Alberta Agriculture.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE IN FORT MCMURRAY AREA

s it possible to grow crops and raise livestock in the Fort McMurray area, 230 miles north-east of Edmonton?

To try to answer this question, Alberta Agriculture's farm development division is engaged in a number of projects in the Fort McMurray area. They include providing technical assistance to four market gardeners who have already cleared about 40 acres of rough land in the Clearwater River flats. The growers sold a small amount of garden produce last year and are hoping to expand their operations during the next year or two.

Another venture in which Alberta Agriculture has been indirectly involved is a 15,000 laying hen operation. It supplies the Fort McMurray community with a large volume of fresh, high quality eggs on a year-round basis.

Following inquiries from a number of local residents about beekeeping, the department has committed itself to work with potential beekeepers to see whether it would be practical and profitable to produce honey in the Fort McMurray area. J.L. Reid, director of the farm development division, says a honey industry in that part of the province could tie into Alberta Agriculture's forage crops project, presently underway in the area.

Last summer the department planted a number of grass and legume varieties and mixtures of grasses and legumes on about 180 acres which the government had cleared northwest of Fort McMurray. How successful the project will be, will not be known until this spring. Things did not look too good last summer, however, when hundreds of wild geese arrive on the scene to eat the young seedlings. This invasion was followed by a downpour of about three inches of rain in a few hours which appeared to wash out many of the remaining seedlings. "If reseeding is needed," says Mr. Reid, "we may try a new type of seeder this spring which seeds into the ground without prior cultivation."

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Agriculture in Fort McMurray Area (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's forage research project was begun in response to requests from the local residents who wanted to know whether it was possible to raise feed for their horses. The project involves a team made up of agricultural engineers, forage crop specialists and soil specialists.

Those taking part in the research, which may continue for four or five more years, have to determine whether the forage will winter kill, which varieties or mixtures adapt best to this poorly drained, rather infertile land and which provide the best yields.

Once the research has been completed, the land will either be seeded to one or two of the most satisfactory forages or it may be turned into recreational parkland. "It all depends," says Mr. Reid, "on the results obtained from our research project. These results will also tell us whether it is possible to grow enough feed in this part of the province to support livestock."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRAYERFACTION 77

A custom made weed sprayer equipped with all the latest electronic control and calibration devices will be auctioned at Sprayerfaction 77, scheduled to be held in the exhibition grounds at Grande Prairie on March 8.

Sprayerfaction is a fair that winds up Alberta Agriculture's weed control course each year. This year's fair will have the largest display of weed control equipment and herbicides ever assembled in Alberta. Exhibitors include representatives of the weed control industry from as far away as Montreal, Quebec, and Iowa, U.S.A. Past fairs have received wide acclaim from both agricultural chemical companies and farmers.

All the main herbicides will be on display at Sprayerfaction 77, and technical representatives from the various companies exhibiting at the fair will be on hand to discuss their products and to answer questions. Instructors who participated in this year's weed control course, held in the Peace River region, will also be present. Research workers and staff members from Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory in Edmonton will be at the fair to answer questions and to demonstrate the laboratory services that are available to farmers.

Sprayerfaction 77 begins at 10 a.m. on March 8 and continues until 9 p.m. The auction of the specially equipped sprayer will take place at 4:30 p.m. Although the fair is mainly intended for farmers, the general public is also invited to attend.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROODING CHICKS ON WOOD SHAVINGS

Although wood shavings are commonly used for brooding chicks, they can spell disaster if they contain splinters.

J. Mangat, Alberta Agriculture's poultry specialist at Calgary, says the quality of shavings varies greatly, depending upon the type of wood and upon the source of the shavings. If they contain splinters of a quarter to 2 inches long they will cause problems. "The chicks," says Mr. Mangat, "will start to look unthrifty and show uneven growth when they are about three weeks of age and begin to die. An autopsy will show that their gizzards are packed with splinters of varying sizes."

The chicks are simply unable to grind up, break down and pass the wood into their intestines. Death is due to starvation, even though feed is available, and to the splinters having punctured the gizzard or stomach.

According to Mr. Mangat, in some cases, the splinter is walled-off leaving a large, hard cyst on the inner wall of the gizzard, but more often it punctures the gizzard or the intestine, dumping the feed and bacteria into the left anterior abdominal air sac. Infection of the air sac and lung soon kill the chick.

Even when the splinter problem is recognized and the litter changed, damage may continue to occur for some time. In fact, it is not uncommon to find large splinters causing a problem many weeks after the litter has been changed or the birds have been housed in cages.

The reason chicks pick up and eat wood splinters when feed is available to them is difficult to explain, except that the chicken is a naturally curious bird. Evidence of its curiosity can be seen in the wide variety of materials found in the gizzards of chickens during routine autopsies. The materials can include nails, staples, aluminum foil, bits of metal, rubber bands, candy wrappers, wire, glass and even money!

If you find you have a batch of 'splintery' shavings, you could, perhaps, sell them to a dairyman for bedding for his cows. Or, as a last resort, you could use them for litter in the hen house. Hens are better able to tolerate the splinters, but even here problems similar to those in chicks are likely to occur.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER SOFTENING

Before buying a water softener, have your water analyzed to determine its hardness and its iron, sodium and sulphate content, advises Ron Johnston, water and sewage engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

He points out water that is high in sodium or sulphates should not be softened if it is going to be used as drinking water because softening will increase its sodium content. Excess sodium is detrimental to people with heart ailments and to those on salt restricted diets. Sodium sulphate can have a laxative effect.

Hard water, a very common problem in many areas of Alberta, is primarily caused by dissolved chemical compounds of calcium and magnesium. The hardness is expressed in milligrams per litre or grains per gallon of calcium carbonate. Although the level at which hardness becomes inconvenient depends upon individual preference, water softening is recommended when the hardness exceeds 100 milligrams per litre or 6 grains per gallon.

Hard water causes scales and crusts to form in pipes, plumbing fixtures and on kitchen utensils. It also necessitates the use of more soap or detergent and can cause skin flaking and irritation.

Water softeners operate on the principle of ion exchange. A synthetic resin (zeolite) bed is charged with sodium ions by regenerating the synthetic resin bed with salt (sodium chloride). Ion exchange occurs when the calcium and magnesium ions attach themselves to the resin (displacing the sodium ions) as the water flows through the softener. It is the removal of the calcium and magnesium that softens the water, but its sodium content is increased by an equivalent amount.

The amount of hardness that can be removed from water mainly depends upon the amount of resin in the softener. Hence, water softeners are sold on the basis of their resin capacity. This capacity is usually expressed in grains with one cubic foot

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Water Softening (cont'd)

having the capacity to remove 30,000 grains of hardness.

Information on the five-cycle, fully automatic water softener, recommended by Mr. Johnston for household use, is contained in the Agri-Fax publication entitled "Water Softening." It is available from the publication's office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER TIPS

Marian Williams, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Vermillion, offers the following advice for consumers.

"With the growing interest in consumerism," she says, "most of us are now beginning to realize our responsibilities as consumers as well as our rights as consumers. As a responsible consumer we must shop with care, caution and control. Here are a few ideas to help us make a responsible decision."

- Refuse to buy shoddy merchandise.
- Do not buy on impulse.
- Rely on facts. Consult magazines like "Canadian Consumer" or contact a district home economist for information.
- Do not rely on verbal promises - get it in writing.
- Read contracts carefully before signing.
- Read labels carefully.
- Make a shopping list and stick to it.

But what happens if the product or service is unsatisfactory? You have the right to complain. Often we feel that our complaints did not receive the attention they should have received. Have you ever considered this may be because you did not remember enough information for them to be followed up?

"To make a clear complaint," says Ms. Williams, "you should know the name of the product, the store where it was purchased (with address), the date of purchase, the manufacturer's name and address, if canned or packaged, and the code number, if possible. It also helps to have a copy of the sales bill."

The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs suggests the following steps when making a complaint:

- If you are angry . . . Cool Down!! Nobody listens to a "Mad Man".
- The first person to complain to is the person who sold you the product. If the seller does not help you . . .

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Consumer Tips (cont'd)

- Complain to the manufacturer. Write a letter including the information suggested above for a clear complaint.
- If the manufacturer does not help you . . . Contact the Department of Consumer Affairs, Box 1616, Edmonton, Alberta.

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AGRI-NEWS

February 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NON-SURGICAL EMBRYO TRANSFER

Picina, a two year old full-blood Marchigiana heifer, owned by Danbeck Marchiniana Farms, Calmar, Alberta, with her 17 full-blood calves (11 heifers and six bulls) born from a single transplant collection performed by Alberta Livestock Transplants Ltd.

Alberta Livestock Transplants Ltd. of Calgary, recently announced a new pregnancy record for a single non-surgical bovine embryo collection.

The donor cow is "Perla", a full-blood Romagnola female owned by Berg Cattle Co. of Millicent, Alberta. From 30 embryos which were recovered non-surgically and transferred individually to recipient cows, 23 pregnancies were confirmed after 90 days.

Perla

Most donor animals collected for embryos at Alberta Livestock Transplants Ltd. are undergoing this non-surgical procedure which affords maximum protection to the valuable female. "The transplant technique is proving to be a significant breeding tool in the reproduction of superior females," says Dr. T. J. Mitenko of Alberta Livestock Transplants. "It is being demonstrated that whole herds may be built in this manner from a small nucleus of outstanding cows. Hence, it more fully utilizes the potential of the female line."

Non-surgical embryo recovery from both superovulated and non-stimulated donor cows has become a very standard type of procedure at Alberta Livestock Transplants Ltd. Over 95 per cent of the embryo collections at their facilities during the past year have been performed

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Non-Surgical Embryo Transfer (cont'd)

by the non-surgical system. The cow does not require a general anesthetic for this method of retrieving embryos, but is given a form of tranquilizer which permits relaxation during the procedure. While the donor is in a standing position, an apparatus is inserted which circulates a fluid in and out of the uterus to remove the minute embryos.

According to Dr. Mitenko, there is extremely little risk to the reproductive function of the cow. In fact, he says, natural calving presents far greater hazards than this well-tested procedure.

Alberta Livestock Transplants Ltd. has performed this non-surgical recovery technique in well over 500 embryo collections during 1976. Suitable donor cows are usually collected two or three times at 60-90 day intervals and then bred to carry their own calf. Following calving, a cow is often re-entered into a transplant program to continue utilizing her reproductive potential by maximum production of offspring.

"A transplant program," Dr. Mitenko says, "is practical only for outstanding females of top breeding stock. Through its potential to produce multiple offspring annually, it can effectively decrease the length of time previously necessary to increase herd numbers or carry out a herd improvement program. Pureblood breeding in the cattle industry has become a completely different ball-game aided by such technological advances."

The director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, Dr. H. N. Vance, says the non-surgical technique eliminates a considerable amount of the risk and expense involved in the surgical procedure. He also points out that although embryo transfer is not economically feasible for the average cow-calf producer, it has potential for purebred cattle breeders who want to make maximum use of a superior female's gene pool.

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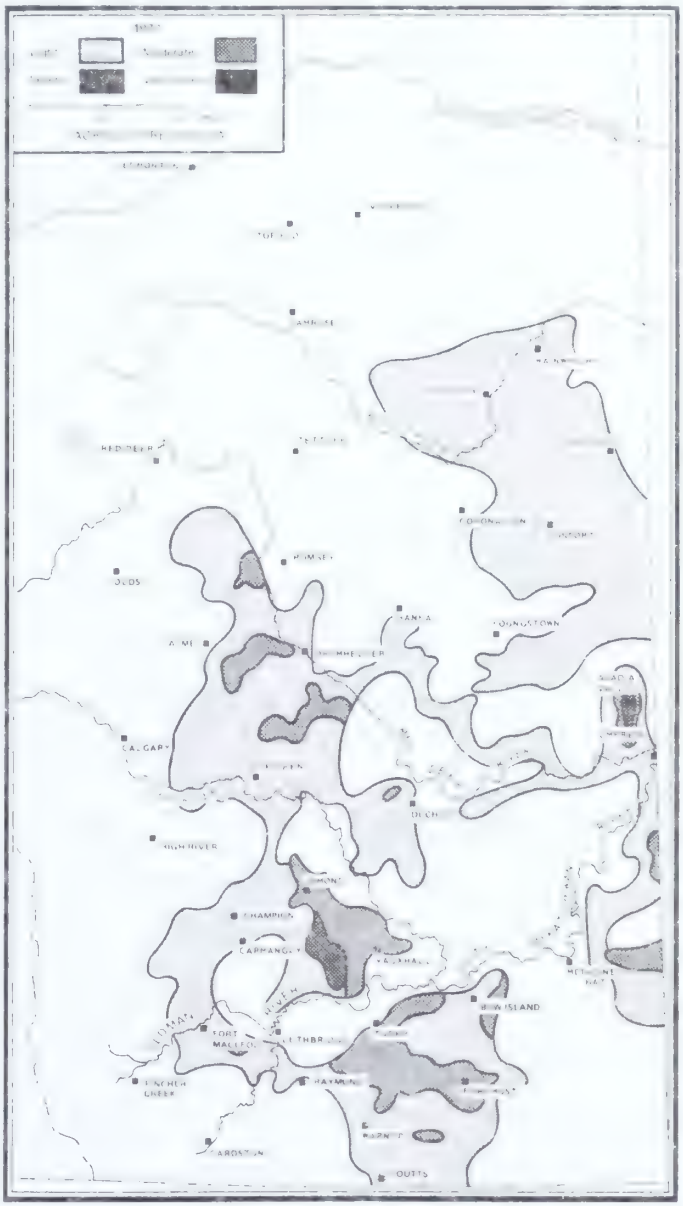
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S 1977 GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

Although the 1977 Alberta grasshopper forecast predicts a smaller grasshopper population than last year, the infestation area is still large enough to cause concern.

Based on estimates of the number of grasshoppers present in the late summer and early fall of 1976, the forecast shows about 0.2 million acres will be severely infested this year. Another 1.6 million acres will be moderately infested and 10.9 million acres are expected to be lightly infested. The heaviest infestations are predicted to occur north-east of Lethbridge and in the Acadia Valley area.



The grasshoppers will begin to hatch in early May, and the amount of damage they do will depend upon the weather. If the spring and early summer are hot and dry, the grasshoppers could cause serious damage unless controlled. On the other hand, if the weather is cool and wet, as it was last year, hatching will be delayed and damage to crops will probably be limited.

According to Dr. N.D. Holmes of the federal research station at Lethbridge, who compiles the grasshopper forecast each year, there was a high mortality rate in last year's grasshopper population. It was apparently caused by disease and continued the decline that began in 1974.

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Alberta's 1977 Grasshopper Forecast (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, says the department will supply dimethoate to county offices for distribution to farmers at a price of $8 per gallon. Other insecticides will be available from agricultural chemical retail outlets.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN OUTLOOK

Feed grain prices are expected to remain about the same as they are now until late summer when they could drop, if we have a normal North American crop.

Lynn Malmberg, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, says that the price of wheat will probably be the main factor affecting the price of feed grains during the 1977-78 crop year. Since wheat prices are likely to remain "soft" in the foreseeable future, they are expected to put a damper on feed grain export prices.

The size of the 1976 Soviet feed grain crop is the second factor expected to have a dampening effect on feed grain prices. The 1976 crop was 125 million tonnes compared with approximately 65.7 million tonnes in 1975.

The third factor is the American corn carryover. The United States Department of Agriculture predicts the 1976-77 corn carryover will reach 15.8 million tonnes compared with 8.7 million tonnes in the previous crop year. World feed grain stocks are predicted to reach 52.3 million tonnes in 1977 compared with 47.6 million tonnes in mid-1976.

Assuming a normal corn yield in the U.S. this summer, corn production will be about the same as last year, but exports and domestic demand are expected to decline somewhat. Hence, prices are expected to be slightly below current levels.

"All the above factors," says Mr. Malmberg, "must be considered potential price depressants to some degree. We must also remember that the probable response to current wheat prices will be an expansion in world feed grain production this year, providing normal weather prevails in the major grain producing areas. If 1977 crop prospects proceed in a normal manner, such an increase in production can be expected to decrease export prices."

Mr. Malmberg expects Canada's barley acreage to increase by 6 to 7 per cent, given reasonable seeding conditions. If yields equal the last five-year average of 40 bushels per acre, production will be around 10.3 million tonnes. Even though exports and domestic

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Feed Grain Outlook (cont'd)

consumption could increase to the point where the Canadian carryover level is around 2 million tonnes by the end of the present crop year (compared with 2.7 tonnes at the end of the 1976 crop year), this increased demand is not expected to have much effect on prices received by Alberta farmers.

"By late summer," says Mr. Malmberg, "it seems likely that barley will be trading in the $1.75 to $2 range, basis export positions, and net the farmer $1.50 to $1.75 per bushel. However, feed grain quotas will probably be relatively good for this year's crop."

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February 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW WHEAT VARIETIES

How applicable are the new wheat varieties to Alberta conditions?

According to Alberta Agriculture officials, the new varieties can be grown here, but, as a general rule, they have few advantages in this province over the older varieties.

Information released by the federal research station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, says that Sinton, a bearded wheat variety, is more easily harvested than Manitou or Neepawa but may shatter in high winds prior to swathing or when left for straight combining. When moisture is scarce, Neepawa usually outyields Sinton. Sinton's main advantage over Neepawa is its resistance to leaf rust. In general, however, Sinton matures later in Alberta than Neepawa and does not yield as well.

Chester, a new variety of wheat with resistance to wheat stem sawfly, usually yields about the same as Canuck, but has shorter straw and matures about a day earlier than Canuck. However, it is less resistant to loose smut than Canuck. Chester is superior to the older sawfly resistant wheat varieties and has good bread making quality, according to the Swift Current release. It is recommended for areas where sawfly damage is a problem.

Glenlea shows little advantage over Neepawa in Alberta. It is an extra-hard blending wheat which has not been grown long enough or in sufficient quantities to establish a market, the Swift Current release says.

Pitic, a soft wheat, is popular with livestock and poultry producers. Since it has not been promoted in world markets, there is no export demand for it. Pitic yields considerably more than the bread wheats and Glenlea in all areas of the Prairie provinces, but it is late maturing and susceptible to rust. Farmers who grow Pitic should plant it early and make sure it is ripe before cutting it. They would also be wise to make sure they have a market before planting it.

Wakooma and Wascana durum wheats both do well in all areas of Western Canada where this type of wheat is grown.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAINFOIN PASTURES

Sainfoin has great potential as a legume pasture crop for central and southern Alberta, according to Larry Gareau, forage crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

He believes the use of sainfoin could contribute significantly to cattle production in the province. This opinion appears to be borne out by a five-year study carried out by the federal research station at Lethbridge and reported to the Alberta Forage Crops Advisory Committee by Dr. Don Wilson.

In the study the performance of yearling steers on a sainfoin irrigated pasture was compared with that of yearling steers on irrigated orchardgrass. Results over the five-year period showed that the steers on the sainfoin pasture averaged a 2.4-pound per head per day gain compared with a 1.8-pound per head per day gain for the steers on orchardgrass. The average length of the grazing season was about 100 days each year.

Some of the steers on the sainfoin reached market weight while still on pasture and the remainder required only a short feeding period. On the other hand, all the steers on the orchardgrass had to be fed for a considerable period before they were ready for market.

No cases of bloat were recorded in the animals on the sainfoin pasture. In fact, the scientists involved in the study believe sainfoin to be completely non-bloat inducing.

The sainfoin pasture did not require any nitrogen fertilizer to maintain good growth, but the orchardgrass needed a 200-pound per acre application of nitrogen every year.

The most apparent deficiencies of sainfoin compared with orchardgrass are its lower dry matter yield, its slower recovery after grazing, its shorter productive life and its susceptibility to invasion by weeds.

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Sainfoin Pastures (cont'd)

Studies at Lethbridge have shown that the carrying capacity of a sainfoin pasture is only two-thirds that of an orchardgrass pasture. Originally its productive life appeared to be only two or three years under intensive grazing, but certain management techniques can increase its productive life considerably. It was found, for example, that mowing the pasture after it had been grazed to remove weeds left by the animals has a very detrimental effect on sainfoin. When this practice, which is appropriate for grasses, was discontinued, the sainfoin stands regained vigor and remained in good conditions for at least six years.

Weeds, however, are still a serious problem in sainfoin pastures. At the present time there seems to be no completely satisfactory way of controlling them, but the scientists at Lethbridge expect to start research into this problem next year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FISH HEALTH PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Alberta fish farmers who wish to import game fish or game fish eggs this year will have to have a permit to do so.

The federal government brought in fish health protection regulations on January 1, 1977 which restrict the shipment of trout and salmon and their eggs in or out of Canada and between provinces to those that have been certified to be free of eight major diseases.

These regulations can be expected to temporarily reduce the number of sources from which fingerlings and fish eggs can be obtained because some of them will not meet Canada's new disease standards. However, since a number of American suppliers have already been certified as disease-free for this year, there should be no shortage of fingerlings in 1977, according to Terry McFadden, chief fish culturist with Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife.

The new regulations also mean that a fish farmer, or a group of fish farmers, who want to export live fish to anywhere outside Alberta will now have to have them inspected and certified as disease-free before they can ship them. However, processed fish, originally obtained from sources now certified as disease-free, will be allowed to be exported without prior inspection.

Mr. McFadden advises fish farmers in Alberta to find out as soon as possible whether the place they intend to obtain their fingerlings or eggs has been certified as meeting the new Canadian health standards. "If not, they should find a new source of supply that has been certified," he says

When applying for an import permit, a fish farmer must submit a fish health certificate from the supplier, his own game fish farm license number and information on the species, number and size of fish he intends to import plus the proposed date of shipment. He should allow at least 15 days between the time he applies for the permit and the time he intends to import the fish or fish eggs.

Applications for permits should be sent to the Fish Health Officer (Alberta), 806, 620 - 7 Avenue, S.W. Calgary, T2P 0Y8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL MITE CONTROL

A specie of predatory mites is being raised at Alberta Agriculture's plant industry laboratory for use in the biological control of red spider mites.

The entomologists at the laboratory have already distributed some of the predatory mites to greenhouses at the University of Alberta and at Olds College. They plan to make them available to private greenhouse operators who express an interest in biologically controlling spider mites and to anyone else involved in propagating or marketing tropical indoor house plants.

The predatory mites were obtained from Dr. R.S. Downing of Agriculture Canada's Research Station in Summerland, British Columbia, where they are being used in integrated chemical and biological insect control programs. These programs involve the release of the predatory mites and the timely application of specific insecticides to control a variety of other mite species that feed on the foliage of apple trees. In some cases the predatory mites are used without chemicals.

"The use of predatory mites to control spider mites in greenhouses and conservatories is only practical," says Hugh Philip, entomologist at the laboratory, "if the plants will be in the greenhouse or conservatory for at least a month. It takes that long for the predatory mites to build up a large enough population to devour all the spider mites." Once the predatory mites have become established, it is important to try to avoid using pesticides.

Mr. Philip says it is also important to keep a nucleus of spider mites in an isolated part of the greenhouse or conservatory so that a small colony of predatory mites can be maintained for future use. This can be done by keeping both types of mites on a few potted plants surrounded by water to keep the mites from invading other plants in the greenhouse. If a spider mite infestation starts to develop, place one or two of these potted plants among the other plants. The predatory mites will soon distribute themselves throughout the building and devour the spider mites. When the spider mites have been eliminated, the predatory

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Biological Mite Control (cont'd)

mites will die off.

Spider mites are not the only pests that can be controlled by parasites or predators. The greenhouse white fly which attacks vegetable and tropical plants can be satisfactorily controlled under proper management conditions with a small parasitic wasp. Aphid populations can usually be held in check with another species of parasitic wasp. Since it is unusual for either of these parasites to completely eliminate the host insect, it is not necessary to maintain a colony of them as is the case with predatory mites.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE AND LOUSE CONTROL

Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, urges farmers to check their cattle during the next three months for warbles and lice.

He points out that inspectors will be checking all cattle going through auction and terminal markets this spring for warbles. Any animals with warbles that are not destined for slaughter will be treated before they leave the premises at the seller's expense. Warble infested cattle that arrive at community pastures this summer will be either sent home or treated at the owner's expense, before being allowed to enter the premises.

"Cattle which have lice," says Mr. Dolinski, "make poor gains and can become anemic." Anemic animals are more susceptible than others to stress and disease.

Mr. Dolinski recommends checking for warbles by running your hand over an animal's back to see if there are any lumps. Lumps contain warble grubs. If there are only one or two lumps, you can either squeeze out the grubs or treat the animal with Rotenone. With either of these methods, you should check for additional grubs every two weeks until the end of May.

Although cattle that scratch often have lice, this is not always the case. When checking for lice you should look carefully at the area around the animal's eyes and along its jaw bone. If a white-faced animal has a moderate to heavy infestation, you will see what look like bluish patches on its face (especially around the eyes) from a distance of two or three feet. With a dark-faced animal the only sure way of finding out whether it has lice is to put it in a chute and check its head and neck by parting the hair.

Beef Cattle

The most appropriate way to treat an animal with more than a couple of grubs is with a systemic insecticide. Systemics will also control lice.

The following table shows the types of treatments that can be used to control warbles and lice. Systemics can be used on cattle after March 1.

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Warble and Louse Control (cont'd)

TREATMENT	CONTROLS WARBLES	CONTROLS LICE
Pour-On		
Systemic (eg. Neguvon)	Yes	Yes
Non-Systemic (only product Korlan 2)	No	Yes
Spot-on (only product Tiguvon)	Yes	Yes
Sprays		
Systemic (eg. Co-Ral)	Yes	Yes
Non-Systemic (eg. Malathion)	No	Yes*
Backwash (only product Rotenone)	Yes (must be rubbed into holes)	Yes*
Hand Dusting		
Non-Systemic (eg. Ciodrin) (No systemics available.)	No	Yes*

* Only works if in direct contact with lice.
Follow label directions for application rates and restrictions.

Dairy Cattle

Milking dairy cattle should not be treated with a systemic insecticide unless you are prepared not to use the milk for the number of days specified on the product label.

Dry and young dairy animals can be treated for warbles and lice in the same way as beef animals, but there are important restrictions relating to the waiting periods between treatment and calving, the use of milk for human consumption and slaughter.

The following table shows the methods that can be used to treat milking dairy cows.

TREATMENT	CONTROLS WARBLES	CONTROLS LICE
Spray		
Non-Systemic (eg. Malathion)	No	Yes*
Backwash (only product Rotenone)	Yes	Yes*
Hand Dusting (eg. Ciodrin)	No	Yes*

* Only works if in direct contact with lice.
Follow label directions for application rates and restrictions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWARDS THE AUTONOMOUS HOUSE

by Gary Cousins
Peace River Regional
Planning Commission

An autonomous house operates independently of any inputs except those from its immediate environment. It is not connected to the main services of gas, water, electricity or drainage, but instead uses the free energy of the sun, wind and rain.

At first glance this may seem far-fetched, but not so long ago every house was autonomous. We have become so accustomed to our complex servicing systems that we tend to forget that our ancestors heated their homes with the sun's energy and with fireplaces, obtained drinking water from rainbarrels, wells, or nearby streams, and used the natural environment for drainage and waste disposal.

The inconveniences, and often inefficiencies, of these systems would not be tolerated in today's society, but the technology is now being developed which would provide the same level of comfort and convenience we now enjoy, by using the gifts of nature.

Heating requirements can be provided by the sun, using a solar collector system mounted on a steeply inclined roof. This would probably require a false roof so as not to affect the interior design of the home to any great extent. It should be remembered that the amount of heat received by an area during the winter months is not the primary consideration in determining the effectiveness of solar heating. Because a solar collector converts short wave light energy into long wave heat energy, the amount of light received is the most important consideration. Although colder climates require more solar energy to heat houses, it is theoretically possible to heat houses with solar energy even in relatively northern climates. However, at the present time the technology is too inefficient and too expensive to make it feasible.

A solar collector could also provide the necessary hot water for showers, baths, dishwashing and laundering. The sun can heat water in a collector to over 200^{o} F., and this water can be stored in a large tank.

To illustrate that this concept is not too esoteric, even now, the Pacific National Exhibition, B.C. Hydro and the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada have

- (cont'd) -

Towards the Autonomous House (cont'd)

built a solar-assisted home which will be situated in Coquitlam. The solar collector is expected to provide 58 per cent of the space heating needs, 80 per cent of the hot water needs and 100 per cent of the warmth required for an attached swimming pool. The system cost $12,000 to build without the designers cutting any economic corners.

Electricity for an autonomous house could come from either solar cells or wind-powered generators. Solar cells or photovoltaic cells are thin wafers of silicon or metals that generate current when struck by sunlight. These cells have been used successfully to power satellites which orbit the earth, and to drive instruments on the Viking orbiters currently circling Mars. They are still largely experimental, however, and are plagued by high cost and low efficiency ratings.

Electricity and mechanical energy can be produced by wind-powered generators. In areas with a moderate annual wind speed, a wind generator with a blade four metres long,driving a two-kilowatt generator can produce enough electricity to power all electrical appliances in a normal house, but not enough for water and space heating. Again, the problem with this technology is cost and inefficiency.

Drinking water can be obtained from wells and rain water in some areas where the density of development is low, but most urban areas will require a communal supply. The amount of water required in a house can be reduced by almost 50 per cent if the flush toilet is replaced. The Clivus toilet requires no flushing, is odourless and requires a storage tank nine feet long, four feet wide and five feet deep. This toilet would provide on-site sewage treatment.

Although most of the technology required for an autonomous house is in its early development stage and is, therefore, both expensive and inefficient, this does not mean that it is an impossible dream. Both cars and airplanes were at one time considered impractical for wide-scale use, and just a quarter-century ago the idea of space flight was considered to be little more than a permissable form of idiocy. Once society decides to pursue a technology, rapid increases in efficiency and decreases in cost can be expected.

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Towards the Autonomous House (cont'd)

Given the continuing decline and rising costs of fossil fuels, the cost of our present water and sewage systems, the difficulties involved in providing electricity from hydro-electric dams and nuclear plants, and the high levels of pollution involved with all current energy sources, can we afford the luxury of ignoring nature's free and boundless energy sources?

(From the January issue of "People Plans and the Peace" published by the Peace River Regional Planning Commission, Grande Prairie, Alberta.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MERCHANT GRAIN BEETLES INVADE KITCHEN CUPBOARDS

"If you see tiny, brown insects in your kitchen cupboards, the chances are you have an infestation of merchant grain beetles," says Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Adult merchant grain beetles are about 1/10 of an inch long. They live and breed in stored food and in the cracks and crevices in cupboards which contain small particles of food. They multiply rapidly and feed on a wide variety of foods including cereals, flour, meal, macaroni, spaghetti, rice, dried fruits, chocolate, shelled nuts, spices, meat and dried pet food.

Merchant Grain Beetle

Control

The first thing to do if you see merchant grain beetles in your cupboard is to find the source of infestation. Examine all the food in the cupboard, especially products that have been stored for some time. When you find the source of infestation, burn or freeze the product to destroy the beetles. If you put the food in the garbage without first destroying these insects, you could start a new infestation, especially in an apartment building.

If you want to salvage food that has only a few beetles, spread it out (not more than two inches deep) in a pan, and put the pan in a 140° to 150° F. oven for at least 20 minutes. Keep stirring the contents. If you have a large amount of food to treat, leave it in the oven for an hour or two. An alternative to using heat to destroy merchant grain beetles is to put the product containing the insects in a freezer for 24 hours.

After you have removed the contents of your kitchen cupboard,treat it with one per cent Baygon or 2 per cent Malathion (deodourized). If you cannot find these strengths, buy a concentrated product and dilute it according to label directions. Using a household sprayer or a paint brush, thoroughly wet the interior surfaces of the cupboard, paying particular attention to

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Merchant Grain Beetles Invade Kitchen Cupboards (cont'd)

cracks and crevices. Do not treat counter tops or other surfaces which may come in contact with food. If you use a spray, cover food, containers, cooking utensils and dishes before spraying.

Wait until the insecticide has dried before replacing your packages and dishes. If you wish, you can cover the shelves and the bottoms of drawers with paper. Do not worry if you see some insects a few days after you have treated a cupboard or drawer. They will die when they come in contact with the treated areas.

Owners and managers of apartment buildings and other multiple dwellings that have been invaded by merchant grain beetles should spray units that are adjacent to the infested unit or hire a licensed pest control firm to do the job.

Prevention

Ideally, products which are susceptible to merchant grain beetles should be stored at a temperature below 15°C. However, since this is often not possible, Mr. Dolinski suggests the following precautions:

- Buy only small quantities of food, especially during the summer, if they are susceptible to grain beetles or if you do not use them regularly.
- Examine all food products and packages carefully when you bring them home to make sure they are free of beetles.
- Keep storage areas clean and dry.
- Store surplus products in insect-proof containers, such as tightly-sealed glass jars. Many kitchen canisters do not keep out small insects.
- Clean containers thoroughly before putting fresh products into them. Never add new food products to old ones.
- Examine all stored food packages and containers periodically. Unchecked packages of oatmeal, crackers and pet foods are common sources of merchant grain infestations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAIRMAN OF SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD APPOINTED

Marvin Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the appointment of Chris Nielsen to the position of chairman of the Surface Rights Board.

A native of Peers, Alberta, Mr. Nielsen brings a wide range of personal and employment experience to the chairmanship of the Surface Rights Board. He has been a very capable member of the board since December 1972. Before that he was involved in business in the Edson area.

The Surface Rights Board was established to provide an arbitration body to consider right of entry applications, compensation rates and settlements of disputes arising out of surface leases. The board presently consists of C. Nielsen of Edmonton, K. Spread of Edmonton, L. Pollard of Calgary, S. Tippett of Calgary, A. Benedix of Calgary and F. Martin of St. Albert.

Mr. Moore says the appointment of Mr. Nielsen as chairman of the Surface Rights Board will provide the board with the necessary leadership to continue to deal fairly with mineral operators and land owners throughout the province.

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AGRI·NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE GOAT INDUSTRY IN GERMANY

A group of prize-winning dairy goats at a show in Schleswig-Holstein, a province in West Germany.

Do you have goats? If so, you will be interested in the following observations on the West German dairy goat industry, which were reported to a staff member of Alberta Agriculture by Ruth Mausolf, editor of the Alberta Goat Breeders Association's publication "Slant".

The uniform quality of the goats in West Germany was one of the things that impressed Mrs. Mausolf most during her recent tour of a number of goat herds and a cheese factory in West Germany. "German goats," she says, "are smaller than Canadian goats, have perfect legs and their udders are well attached. At the present time the breeders are trying to produce a longer-bodied goat, but are not intending to add height." Mrs. Mausolf believes that the uniformity in the animals is due to the strict breeding programs that are practised in West Germany. It seems that all bucks used for breeding are owned by the local governments and are held at buck stations. The does are brought to the station to be serviced, thereby ensuring that they are bred only to the best bucks in the country.

To qualify for a buck station, an animal has to meet the following criteria: he must have been born before April, he must be hornless and his dam must be at least four

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years old, have kidded four times in that period and have produced a specified amount of milk and butterfat.

Mrs. Mausolf reports that the Germans put great emphasis on breeding horn-less goats, and that every male or female born with horns is automatically destroyed. "The odd hermaphrodite that occurs in this type of a breeding program is considered a negligible problem," she says.

According to Mrs. Mausolf, the demand for goats in many parts of Europe is very high, but only about 15 female kids will be exported from West Germany this year. The reason for the shortage of export animals is the recent up-swing in West Germany's dairy goat industry.

There were a number of practices used by West Germany's goat breeders which Mrs. Mausolf does not agree with. One of them is that every female kid born in the spring must be bred the following fall, regardless of her size. The vice-president of the province of Schleswig-Holstein, Hans Vielhauer, agreed with Mrs. Mausolf and told her that North American goat breeders were ahead of their European counterparts in several areas. One of these is in teat-dipping and udder washing to prevent mastitis. Mr. Vielhauer was very interested in the use of light-weight shells and inflations for milking machines. In West Germany, they still use the stainless steel equipment, but find it rough on the goats.

In the cheese factory, Mrs. Mausolf sampled a large variety of goat cheese, which she says was delicious. The goats' milk is brought to the factory every day from the breeders, and made into a soft, mild cheese that is shipped to cities like Hamburg. According to Mrs. Mausolf, the demand for goats' cheese in West Germany is greater than the supply, and the mild type of cheese manufactured there is preferred to the stronger, imported French cheese.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPUTER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

Alberta Agriculture's systems engineering branch has developed a number of computer programs to help farmers analyze various design and management alternatives and to choose the one that is best suited to their specific operation. These programs are available free of charge to all farmers in Alberta.

They include the following:

- Truss Design. This program calculates a design for specific clear-span gable-roofed trusses. It takes into account such factors as the size of the building, snow load and type of lumber used.

- Ventilation Design. This program will calculate the ventilation and heating requirements for cattle, swine and poultry buildings of various sizes and construction specifications.

- Farm Building Cost Analysis. This program will estimate the cost of constructing a farm building, provide a partial bill of materials and estimate the amount of labor required.

- Grain Dryer Simulation. This program simulates the mechanical drying of various crops and predicts dryer performance (energy consumption, drying rate, etc.) and drying costs.

- Grain Harvesting and Drying Simulation. This program simulates the total grain harvesting operation. It can be used to evaluate various grain harvesting and drying alternatives on the basis of the total system's performance and cost. It can also be used to evaluate alternative equipment combinations and sizes.

Paul Barlott, head of the systems engineering branch, says new programs will be added to those listed above as they are developed by his branch.

Farmers who wish to take advantage of the present programs should contact their regional engineer, agricultural engineering specialist or the Systems Engineering Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. "Input" forms and assistance in completing them and in interpreting the computer results are available from any of these sources.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKLEG AND MALIGNANT OEDEMA CONTROL

Blackleg and malignant oedema, often referred to as stable blackleg, still cause losses in Alberta's beef herds. Losses can range as high as 30 per cent of a herd, and frequently occur in areas of the province where they have not been previously reported.

The organisms that cause these diseases are both soil-borne, and can be introduced to any area by the wind, running water, wild animals etc. Since there is no practical way of keeping cattle from coming in contact with them, vaccination is the only method of control.

Blackleg and malignant oedema are usually seen in calves and yearlings. Sometimes one or more of the calves become lame, lack appetite, show signs of depression and develop a high fever. Swellings may appear in the muscles in various parts of the body. However, often there is no sign of sickness; an animal is simply found dead in the pasture.

Dr. H. N. Vance, director of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, recommends vaccinating all calves when they reach three months of age. Because of the similarity between blackleg and malignant oedema, a mixed bacterin should be used. Calves on pasture should receive a second injection when they are six months old. Some cattlemen re-vaccinate all animals under three years old every year to ensure as permanent an immunity as possible in the herd.

"If a suspected outbreak of blackleg occurs, call your veterinarian for an accurate diagnosis," says Dr. Vance. "If the disease is blackleg, vaccinate or re-vaccinate all the cattle, regardless of their age. Those under three months should be given half a dose and then a full dose when they are three months old." Since there is a period of about two weeks after vaccination before the animals develop a strong immunity to blackleg and malignant oedema, it is a good idea to move the herd onto a clean pasture after they have been vaccinated.

Blackleg and malignant oedema are both very difficult to treat. If, however, a case is noticed in the early stage of its development, it may respond to immediate treatment with penicillin or some of the other antibiotics.

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FOR IMMMEDIATE RELEASE

NO-TILL SEEDING

Have you thought of planting your crop directly into the seedbed with no previous tillage? If you are concerned about inadequate spring moisture, this might be an idea.

Doug Penny, soils specialist with Alberta Agriculture, agrees with the principle of no-till seeding on farms where weeds can be economically controlled with herbicides and where the soil (light brown) is usually short of moisture even in a normal year. No-till seeding is also recommended for areas where soil erosion is a problem, especially in a dry year. Many types of seed drills will plant cereals in no-till fields if previous crop residues are properly managed.

Scientists at the federal research station at Lethbridge, who have been studying the performance of several commercial seed drills on no-till fallow and stubble fields, have found seed placement was adequate in fields with up to 3,300 pounds of wheat stubble and straw per acre. This is about the amount of trash there would be from a 35-bushel per acre wheat crop.

According to the Lethbridge scientists, trash was satisfactorily cleared with the hoe openers on a hoe drill when the straw was less than one foot long and uniformally spread over the field. Double and triple disc press drills also did a satisfactory job of seeding when they were able to cut through the surface trash. In these cases crop yields were at least equal to those from plots seeded with a hoe drill. When there were differences between yields from hoe drills and disc press drills, they were mainly due to the presence of wild oats. The hoe drill tended to foster the germination of more wild oats than the press disc drills because of the tillage action of the hoe openers. This reduced yields compared with yields from the disc press drills, despite the use of herbicides.

According to the findings at Lethbridge, weed numbers were lower than under conventional tillage conditions and weed control was not usually necessary after a few years of no-till seeding. The research showed that, despite some difficulties in weed control and in seeding, spring wheat yields from no-till stubble fields averaged four bushels per acre more than yields from conventionally seeded stubble fields (two cultivations). Shallower seeding depths and better soil moisture conditions were given credit for the higher yields from no-till seeding.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE RESIDUE FOUND IN MILK

The supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's dairy farm inspection service, Ed Bristow, urges dairymen to read the label directions very carefully before applying any pesticide to their milking dairy cows this spring and to use these products only for the purpose stated on the label.

He reports that a dairyman in the Edmonton region recently had to dump his milk because it was found to contain a pesticide residue. In this case the dairyman had used a pesticide approved for controlling horn flies on milking dairy cattle to control lice. The application rate prescribed for horn flies is very light, but the farmer had used a heavy rate in an attempt to control a sever louse infestation. In addition to losing the revenue from three days' milk production, he nearly lost his cows and calves, which reacted violently to the misapplication of the product.

Regulations under the federal government's plant products division state that all pesticides must be used only for the purpose outlined on the label and only at the prescribed rates. Failure to comply with these regulations is an offense under the Pest Control Products Act and can result in a charge being laid.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF SALESMAN SELLING STEEL FARM BUILDING

Alberta farmers are warned to be on the lookout for an individual who is claiming to be in the steel building sales and erection business.

Operating under the company name of Basis James Enterprises, he is not licensed under Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs and is reported to have taken deposits on steel farm buildings in various parts of the province and then disappeared. At the moment he is wanted by a number of RCMP detachments on charges of fraud.

Anyone who has had business dealings with the representative of Basil James Enterprises is asked to contact Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Edmonton at 427-5782.

Consumer and corporate affairs officials urge Alberta farmers not to do business with any salesman until they have asked to see his direct seller's license. If he does not have one, beware.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE TRIALS

Trials carried out by the University of Alberta's department of plant science show that, compared with perennial forage yields, the most favorable forage yields obtained from annual crops do not justify the additional production costs.

In the three-year trials, oats, barley and wheat were tested for forage yields alone, in combination with each other and in combination with peas, soybeans and rape at three sites in Alberta.

Oats gave the best yields in those areas where the growing season was longer and the rainfall higher than average. On the other hand, barley gave the highest yield in areas where the growing season was shorter and drier.

It was found that increasing seeding rates improved yields and reduced fibre content in all the crops tested. However, this yield increase was not substantial, and with the possible exception of oats, the higher seeding rates were not economical.

Although a non-cereal crop in the mixture always reduced crop yields, a mixture of peas and oats increased the crude protein yield per acre. Peas and oats gave a higher yield than rape and oats, but rape and barley gave a higher yield than peas and barley.

Yields were reduced in all crop combinations when the cereal and non-cereal crops were sown in alternate rows. Maximum yields were obtained when the crops were harvested after the grain had passed the dough stage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHORTAGE OF SEED POTATOES

Commercial potato growers in Alberta who have not yet ordered their seed should do so immediately.

This advice comes from Dr. Jack Horricks of Alberta Agriculture, who reports that commercial growers will have to get their seed from British Columbia as supplies have already run out in Alberta (except for small packs for backyard gardeners). Since there will not be enough potatoes in British Columbia to meet the demand from Alberta growers, those who do not get their orders in early will have to import their supplies from Montana or Idaho. The American imports will entail an additional charge to bring them across the border.

Dr. Horricks also reminds Albertans that they must obtain a permit if they plant an acre or more of potatoes. Permits can be obtained from Mike Rudakewich, Alberta Agriculture, Fairview College, Fairview; John Stenrue, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Edmonton; Larry Welsh, Alberta Agriculture, Bowland Building, Calgary; and from agricultural fieldmen in southern Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNOW MOLD

Are you wondering what to do about the snow mold on your lawn?

Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, says there is nothing you can do if the snow has already melted. However, if there are still patches of snow in shady places, you should shovel them off the lawn immediately. Dr. Horricks points out that snow mold damage has already occurred by the time the snow has melted. Hence, raking or sweeping off the whitish-grey cobweb-like material, which appears as the snow melts, does not do any good.

This cobweb-like material is caused by four different fungi which kill the grass in irregular patches. Three of the fungi kill it during late winter and early spring, while the fourth can also kill the grass in the fall.

Dr. Horricks suggests anyone planning to plant a lawn this spring uses a snow mold-resistant grass seed like Sydport, New Port, Nugget or Kentucky Bluegrass. These varieties are also recommended for golf fairways. Bardot and Bore Colonial bentgrasses and Northland creeping bentgrass are recommended for golf and bowling greens.

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March 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A HOUSE THAT WILL CONSERVE ENERGY

If you intend to build a house on your farm or acreage, choose a site that will make maximum use of the sun's energy. This is the best way to keep your future fuel bills down.

Try to pick an area on a southern slope or one that has plently of trees. A southern slope will provide good insulation for the house along its northern wall and allow maximum exposure to the sun on the south. Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves) will provide shade for the house during the summer, and allow the sun to help heat it in the winter, especially if the house has large windows facing south. Trees will also shelter the house from wind.

If you intend to plant your trees, it is a good idea to put evergreens along the north and west sides of the house, to protect it from the prevailing winds, and to plant deciduous trees along the southern exposure. Most people prefer to have no large trees on the east side of the house so that they can take advantage of the early morning sun.

Mounds of earth can also be used to protect a house from wind. They should be fifty to a hundred feet back from the north and west walls, depending upon the location of the house in relation to the general area. When properly integrated into the landscape plan, these mounds can make attractive planting areas.

If your house plan calls for a basement with large windows on one side, you can keep your future heating bills to a minimum by banking the other three sides with earth. The earth should come to just below the main floor level.

Still another way of conserving future energy is to reduce the surface area of your house by incorporating a finished basement. Because of the insulation provided by the earth, you can save up to twenty-five per cent of what it would have cost you to heat the same square footage on the main level. If you do not want to finish your basement, you should consider a rectangular house rather than an L-shaped one. Since a rectangular house

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A House that will Conserve Energy (cont'd)

has less wall area, and, therefore, less heat loss, it costs about six per cent less to heat than an L-shaped building of the same size.

You can further reduce potential heating requirements by having only one entrance. A house with one multi-purpose entrance, equipped with a cloakroom and washing facilities, requires considerably less energy to heat than a two-entrance house because it has less square feet.

The way you insulate your house will also influence your future heating bills. Alberta Agriculture's home design specialists say that 2" X 6" studs at 24-inch spacings, as opposed to the conventional 2" X 4" studs at 16-inch spacings, will increase your wall insulation by about half as much again. If you use 2" X 4" studs, you should use foam type insulating sheathing under the siding or construct an inner wall with 2" X 3" studs at 16-inch horizontal spacings and use batt insulation between it and the outside wall. The specialists also recommend insulating the roof with two six-inch layers of batt insulation (instead of the conventional 6" loose fill) and insulating the joist spaces around the perimeter of your basement, even if it is not finished. You should extend the insulation to three feet below the ground.

Finally, use insulated doors and well constructed, tightly fitting windows. If the site you have chosen for your house does not make maximum use of the sun's heat, it is a good idea to keep your window area to a minimum and to use quadruple glazing (four panes of glass) on the north side of the house and triple glazing on the west and east sides. They are more expensive than double glazed windows, but they reduce the heat loss by about a third.

You can get more information on building a house that requires a minimum of heating by contacting the community and home design branch, Alberta Agriculture, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

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March 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESOURCE FAIR '77

If you have questions on a variety of subjects, chances are you can get them answered at Resource Fair '77, scheduled to take place in the Parkland Mall, Red Deer, on March 19.

Representatives of more than 20 public service organizations are participating in this year's fair and are prepared to answer questions on topics ranging from alcoholism and drug abuse to agriculture.

The Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission provides treatment for people with alcohol and drug related problems through individual, family and group counselling. They support treatment with lectures, films and discussions.

Alberta Agriculture representatives at the fair will provide information in all areas of farm and home management.

Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs personnel are prepared to provide you with information on their family finance, consumer credit, complaint investigation, licensing of trades and businesses and consumer education services.

If you want more information on your Canada Pension Plan, you will find representatives at Resource Fair '77.

Representatives of the Alberta Poultry Industry Council will also be at the fair to discuss various aspects of the poultry industry.

If you are a mother of a fatherless boy you may be interested in Big Brothers, a professionally administered agency, which will be represented at this year's fair.

Canada Consumer and Corporate Affairs will also have a booth at Resource Fair '77. This agency deals with such matters as product safety, consumer complaints, misleading advertising, copyrights, industrial designs and almost any other topic related to the market place.

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"Who Cares? We Care!" will be the theme of a joint display presented by the Red Deer and district Foster Parent Association and Alberta Social Services and Community Health.

Have you heard of the New Home Certificate Program of Alberta? It is Canada's first new home warranty protection and was established in November 1974 by the Alberta Council of Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada. If you want to find out more about this program you will find qualified people at the fair to answer your questions.

You can also find out about the federal Health Protection Branch at Resource Fair '77. It deals with the safety of foods, drugs, radiation-emitting devices, environmental pollutants, nutrition, fraudulent drugs, medical devices, drug and alcohol abuse and so on.

New Horizons will also be represented at this year's fair. New Horizons helps senior citizens who "want to get out and do something for themselves and their community".

If you want information on rents, you can contact the Alberta rent regulation people at the fair.

And if you want to know about the textile analysis service, you can visit their booth at Resource Fair '77.

Among the other organizations that will be represented at this year's fair are Calgary Power and the Alberta Cattle Commission.

Resource Fair '77 is a joint project between the Red Deer Home Economics Association and Parkland Home Economics Teachers.

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CORRECTION to "Non-surgical Embryo Transfer" article (February 28 issue of Agri News).

The 17 calves, owned by Dahlbeck Marchigiana Farms, in the picture resulted from a 1975 surgical embryo collection; NOT from a non-surgical collection as inferred by the title of the article.

March 7, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAIRMAN OF ALBERTA DAIRY CONTROL BOARD RETIRES

Alberta's agriculture minister, Marvin Moore, has announced that Stewart Thomas is retiring as chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board at the end of the current dairy year.

Mr. Thomas has served as chairman of the board since its inception in 1969. During this time he has made a significant contribution to the marketing of milk throughout the province, and has been active in many federal-provincial negotiations relating to the dairy industry. It was under his leadership that a provincial fluid milk equalization pool was established, and the Graduated Entry Program was introduced to help producers convert from the industrial to the fluid market.

Mr. Thomas, a native of Ontario, moved to Alberta in 1944 and assumed the position of plant superintendent for Silverwood's Dairy. Later he was appointed plant manager, the position he held until the formation of the Alberta Dairy Control Board.

During his years with Silverwood's Dairy, Mr. Thomas was noted for his innovative approach to the dairy industry and many developments can be attributed to his efforts. He always impressed upon the industry the need for, and desirability of, producing the highest quality of milk for consumption, and he helped introduce the first central testing program. He was also the first plant manager in Western Canada to have shippers convert from cream cans to bulk tanks.

As a long time member of the Alberta Dairymen's Association, Mr. Thomas has contributed greatly to the dairy industry in our province. The Association recognized his contribution by awarding him a life membership in 1975.

It is expected that a new chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board will be appointed by April 1, 1977.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL ON LAMB CO-OP

The Alberta Government has submitted a proposal to the Lamb Processors Co-op Ltd. which will see the continued operation of the co-op's lamb processing facility in Innisfail, Alberta, agriculture minister Marvin Moore said , March 9.

The proposal involves the provincial government assuming all assets of the co-op and, in return, assuming responsibility for the co-op's liabilities, which include $2.1 million in capital debt and interest and about $280,000 in unpaid operating losses.

If the co-op shareholders approve of such an arrangement, it would be the intention of the government to continue the operations at Innisfail until arrangements could be made with an experienced processor for a long-term lease of the facility with a firm commitment to continue the processing of lamb.

The longer term arrangements are expected to see the co-op continuing to function as a buyer of lamb and a seller of the processed product, Mr. Moore said.

It is understood the co-op shareholders will be meeting within the next two weeks to consider the government proposal.

The minister of agriculture said the continued operation of the Innisfail facility is vital to the development of an expanded sheep industry in Alberta and Western Canada and the objectives which led to the building of the Innisfail plant are even more important today than they were when the plant began operations.

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March 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO ALBERTA GRAIN COMMISSION

Alberta's agriculture minister, Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of two new members to the Alberta Grain Commission and the retirement of one member.

Frank Schwengler of St. Paul will become the new farm member for north-eastern Alberta. Besides operating a mixed farming operation, he has had experience in a wide range of activities in the agricultural sector. They include being chairman and member of the agricultural development committee for St. Paul, vice-president of the St. Paul seed cleaning plant, member of United Grain Growers, member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, member of the county advisory committee, and member of the St. Paul Agricultural Society.

T. R. "Ted" Sonntag of Hotchkiss, Alberta will become the board's Peace River representative. He runs a beef cattle and grain operation and is currently a director of United Grain Growers and a councellor for I.D. 22. Mr. Sonntag's past experience includes being chairman of the Farm Development Corporation, director of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and member of the agricultural services board.

Joe Ference, the board member from Elk Point, has resigned his position on the Alberta Grain Commission to pursue personal business activities. Mr. Moore expressed thanks on behalf of the farmer's of north-eastern Alberta to Mr. Ference for the contribution he has made to the Alberta Grain Commission.

Current members of the Commission include John Channon, chairman; Dave Berntson, a farmer from Foremost; Jack Gorr, a farmer from Three Hills; Allen Hodge, a farmer from Lacombe; Con Yurko, a farmer from Hairy Hill; and Gunnar Lindquist, a farmer from Barrhead.

Established in 1972, the Alberta Grain Commission's general objective is to provide policy recommendations relative to the grain industry in the province to the minister of agriculture. Its activities and deliberations are aimed at all aspects of the grain and oilseeds industries with a view to developing policy recommendations which will improve the overall net farm income of Alberta farmers.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROS AND CONS OF ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Should I use anhydrous ammonia as a nitrogen fertilizer this spring? Will it hurt my soil?

These are two common questions being asked by Alberta farmers as more fertilizer dealers are handling this product and as many of those already in the business are expanding their operations.

According to Doug Penney, soils specialist with Alberta Agriculture, anhydrous ammonia has been used for many years and may offer a convenient alternative to the present system of applying nitrogen fertilizers. He points out, however, that there are rumors going around that anhydrous ammonia is harmful to the soil. "The source of these rumors," he says, "seems to be European land buyers who have indicated that they do not want to buy land that has been fertilized with anhydrous ammonia."

To date, there appears to be no evidence to support the theory that anhydrous ammonia has a detrimental effect on Alberta soils. However, reports from the United States have indicated that very heavy application rates (three to four times higher than our normal rates) have caused some deterioration in the organic matter of some soils when used over a prolonged period. Hence, concern over possible harmful effects of anhydrous ammonia cannot be completely disregarded on the basis of current evidence, but Mr. Penney feels that there is no reason for undue concern.

The fact that anhydrous ammonia accounts for 48 per cent of the straight nitrogen fertilizer sales in Alberta indicates that it is a popular nitrogen source with farmers. Some of the reasons for its popularity are:

- Convenience - it generally requires less labor to apply than dry nitrogen fertilizers, an important consideration for farmers seeding large acreages of stubble.

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- Cost - anhydrous ammonia has tended to cost 5 to 10 per cent less per pound than dry nitrogen fertilizers.
- Results - comparisons between anhydrous ammonia and other nitrogen fertilizers have generally shown it to be at least equal to, and sometimes slightly superior to, dry nitrogen fertilizers in terms of crop yields. The deep placement of the ammonia is thought to be beneficial under dry soil conditions. However, similar results have been obtained from dry nitrogen fertilizers when they have been placed in the soil at depths similar to those of anhydrous ammonia.

One of the disadvantages of using anhydrous ammonia is that its application season is often short. This is because the soil moisture and the physical condition of the soil have to be suitable for the ammonia injection. In some cases the ammonia injection equipment may not be available when soil conditions are right or when it is convenient for the farmer to apply the fertilizer. Another disadvantage is that anhydrous ammonia must be handled extremely carefully. If handled carelessly, it can cause skin irritation and serious burns.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARM WEATHER NOT APPRECIATED BY BEES

The spring-like weather we have enjoyed in January and February this year has been very nice for us, but it has been hard on some overwintering honeybee colonies.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, explains that extended periods of warm weather in Janauary and February can over-stimulate brood rearing (limited brood rearing is normal) and increase the consumption of honey and pollen. He points out that unusually heavy brood rearing early in the year may result in the rapid accumulation of indigestible materials such as pollen shells in the bees. These indigestible materials, which are not eliminated until the bees are able to fly, add to the stress being experienced by the colony in its effort to maintain a brood rearing temperature of 34°C. over relatively large areas of comb.

According to Dr. Soehngen, all beekeepers can do to help their bees during the early spring is to provide insulation against rapid temperature fluctuations within the hive and watch the food supplies. A very rapid temperature drop in the hive can result in the loss of bees which fail to rejoin the cluster.

If additional food is necessary, it may be given in the form of combs of honey or as a 50 per cent sugar solution in an inverted pail feeder, placed directly over the cluster. Dr. Soehngen says that Boardman feeders, which are placed at the hive entrance, are not suitable in cold weather because the bees are not able to leave the cluster to enter them. If they do leave the cluster, they will be chilled and die.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUFFALO AND CATTLE CROSSES

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division, W. C. Gordon, recommends that cattlemen who are thinking of crossing cattle with buffalo weigh the pros and cons carefully before introducing buffalo blood into their herds.

Because the federal government has been involved in crossbreeding cattle with buffalo to produce cattalo since the turn of the century, Mr. Gordon suggests that anyone interested in the subject consider the following points contained in a news release from the federal research station at Lethbridge.

Dr. D. G. Keller and J. E. Lawson, both animal geneticists, made the following observations between 1958 and 1964 on the pre- and post-weaning performance of cattalo calves compared with Hereford control calves. They were hoping to combine the hardiness of the buffalo with the meat-producing qualities of domestic cattle.

- The mortality rate at birth or soon afterwards was 14 per cent for the cattalo calves compared with 7 per cent for the Hereford calves, and the cattalo calves were about 4 per cent lighter at birth than the Herefords.

- The cattalo and Hereford calves did not differ in average daily gain to weaning and did not differ in weaning weight.

- The Hereford calves had an average daily gain in the feedlot of 16 per cent higher than that of the cattalo calves and their final feedlot weight was 5 per cent higher.

- The cattalo calves required 15 per cent more digestible energy per pound of gain than the Hereford calves.

- As the percentage of buffalo in the crossbreds was reduced over the duration of the project, most of the economically important production traits improved.

In the early 1950's cattalo calves and their dams produced at Manyberries experimental farm averaged about 23 and 40 per cent buffalo respectively. The remainder was predominantly Hereford. By 1964 the percentage of buffalo was only 13 per cent in

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Buffalo And Cattle Crosses (cont'd)

the calves and 14 per cent in the dams. The project was terminated in 1965.

Since the above observations indicate that the disadvantages of crossing buffalo and cattle outweigh the advantages, the animal geneticists at Lethbridge suggest that anybody who wants to experiment with such crosses do so on a limited scale.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY INDUSTRY STAFF CHANGES

The Alberta Dairy Control Board and Alberta Agriculture's dairy division have undergone several staff changes recently.

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, this week announced the appointment of James R. Gylander as the new chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board.

In the dairy division, Knud Anderson has retired from his position as dairy specialist, Edmonton, and Fred R. Hutchings, the dairy division's director, has announced the appointment of four new dairy specialists. They are: Hartmut Gorbahn, Alvin Helmersen, Fred Wyatt and Kim Whitehead.

Mr. Gylander

Mr. Gylander takes up his new Alberta Dairy Control Board post on April 1, but will spend some time with the board during March.

He comes to the position of chairman with a wide range of experience in the agricultural sector. Many Albertans have known him as a district agriculturist in Lethbridge and Leduc, more recently as a supervisor of agricultural municipal programs and, since 1973, as the executive director of the Land Use Forum.

Mr. Gylander resides with his family in Leduc.

Mr. Anderson

Mr. Anderson had more than 30 years service with the Alberta dairy industry when he went into retirement earlier this year.

Danish-born, he immigrated to Canada in 1927 and attended the Olds School of Agriculture during 1934, 1935 and 1936. From 1937 until 1939 Mr. Anderson worked at Model Dairies, Calgary, where he obtained experience in all aspects of milk plant operation. He then joined Carstairs Creamery as a butter maker.

Mr. Anderson started employment with the dairy branch in 1946 as an inspector-instructor in the Lethbridge area. He was transferred to the Edmonton office in 1954.

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Dairy Industry Staff Changes (cont'd)

New Dairy Specialists

Mr. Gorbahn, Mr. Helmersen and Mr. Wyatt have commenced duties as dairy specialist at the Edmonton district office, regional dairy specialist at Fairview, and regional dairy specialist at Vermilion, respectively.

Mr. Whitehead starts work as dairy specialist at the Barrhead regional office on March 14.

Mr. Gorbahn served his dairy apprenticeship at the Molkereigenssenschaft Brackel dairy plant in Germany. He obtained a degree in dairy science from the MLUA in Hamaln-Weser, Germany, then worked at Freden-Leine before immigrating to the United States and later Canada. Mr. Gorbahn's experience includes cheese manufacturing and fluid milk processing. He has managed fluid milk processing plants and cheese factories in Yakima, Wash. and Cranbrook, B.C.

Vancouver-born, Mr. Helmersen holds a B.Sc. (food science) and an M.B.A. from U.B.C. He has a broad training and background. His experience includes employment with Fraser Valley Milk Producers Association, Nabob Foods and Fairview Farms Ltd. in working and managerial positions.

Mr. Wyatt graduated from the Oklahoma State University in 1961 with a B.Sc. (agriculture); dairy major and chemistry minor. He has worked for Scaltest Foods, Philadelphia, Pa.; Seagrams-Calvert, Baltimore, Md.; and Silverwood Dairies, London, Ont. His experience and training have taught him much about trouble-shooting in larger milk processing plants with regard to equipment and cleaned in place systems.

Mr. Whitehead is a graduate of Sir George Williams University and McGill University in Montreal. He has courses in computer programming and modern business law from the former and a B.Sc. (agriculture) with a food science major from the latter. Since graduating in 1969, Mr. Whitehead has worked with Kraft Foods in Montreal as a senior chemist in their cheese processing operation in addition to working with the complete line of Kraft products.

March 14, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARM WATER THAWING OF STRAWS

Straws of frozen semen that are thawed rapidly in warm water have more viable sperm cells than those thawed in ice water, the hand or the pocket, according to Dr. Kay Henderson, reproductive physiologist with Alberta Agriculture.

She explains that sperm in semen brought rapidly to a temperature of 5° C. experience minimal damage. If the sperm in straws is thawed slowly, many tiny ice crystals form in the heads of the sperm causing damage. However, the semen must not be allowed to go above 5° C. because of the external temperatures the sperm cells are subjected to between the time the semen is thawed and inseminated. It would not matter how warm the semen got if it went directly from the thaw box into the cow and did not have to experience the shock of the considerably cooler external temperature.

Dr. Henderson reports that scientists at Colorado State University in the United States recommend thawing straws in 35° C. water. Continental 1/4 ml (milliliter) straws and French 1/2 ml straws should be left in the water for exactly 12 seconds. French 1/4 ml straws should be left in the water for exactly six seconds.

"Timing," says Dr. Henderson, "is extremely important to ensure that the sperm cells reach 5° C. as quickly as possible, but do not become warm enough to experience cold shock when they are removed from the water and exposed to the external temperature. If the straws are left in the water too long or not long enough, the fertility of the semen will be reduced."

The recommendations for thawing straws of frozen semen do not apply to ampules of frozen semen because the surface area to the volume ratio is smaller in ampules than in straws.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW HOME ECONOMICS APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. V. G. McDonald, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Miss Jennifer Zilm to the position of regional home economist at Fairview.

She has also announced that Miss Carol Hindmarsh, Miss Judy Crawford and Miss Mary Ann Gielen have started training as district home economists at Olds, Vulcan and Grande Prairie respectively.

Miss Zilm

Alberta-born, Miss Zilm graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Sc. (home economics) in 1971.

Her career as a home economist began in January 1973 when she joined Alberta Agriculture. After undergoing training in the Strathmore-High River area, Miss Zilm was appointed district home economist at Hanna. She transferred to High River in June last year.

As regional home economist at Fairview, she will be responsible for co-ordinating the regional home economics programs carried out by the district home economists of that region. She will represent the home economics branch in the region, and facilitate liaison with various groups, agencies and government departments within the region.

Miss Hindmarsh

A native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Miss Hindmarsh graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in May last year with a B. Sc. (home economics). She then toured Canada, the United States and Europe on the Hannon Travel Scholarship. She joined Alberta Agriculture in January.

Miss Crawford

Miss Crawford returned to the province of her birth to join Alberta Agriculture in January. She was born in Calgary, but raised in Saskatchewan, where she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B. Sc. (home economics) in May 1976. Miss Crawford spent the latter half of last year travelling, mainly through Europe, on the Hannon Travel Scholarship, which she shared with Miss Hindmarsh.

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Miss Gielen

Miss Gielen is a native of rural Ontario. As an active 4-H club member, she achieved provincial honors and acted as a 4-H leader. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a B. Sc. (home economics) in May last year, and joined Alberta Agriculture in January.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUY FROM A LICENSED IMPLEMENT DEALER

The administrator of Alberta Agriculture's Farm Implement Act, Bob McFadyen, advises anybody buying farm equipment worth more than $1,000 to buy from a licensed dealer, regardless of whether the equipment is new or used.

He points out that in the case of new equipment, the dealer's license ensures that the purchaser has the full protection of the warranty offered by the manufacturer and the Farm Implement Act. In the case of both new and used equipment, it ensures that the dealer has the parts and service facilities for the equipment he sells. It also guarantees that he is bonded, which means that the purchaser is protected if the dealer's business should fail.

If you would like more information on the Farm Implement Act, contact R. G. McFadyen, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C8 (Telephone 427-2188).

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March 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARING ON OIL AND GAS WELL SITES

An upcoming Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) public hearing to determine the target area locations for future oil and gas well sites in Alberta is expected to attract submissions from farmers' groups throughout Alberta.

The board recently announced that such a hearing will open at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton, on April 19. The closing date for submissions has been set for April 12.

The move follows a mid-1976 request for a public hearing from the farmers' advocate of Alberta and Unifarm, an organization of Alberta farmers and their organizations, who propose target areas be shifted to the corner of the drilling spacing unit throughout the province.

Well spacing is significant to surface owners because of its effect on land values and the utilization of farm lands, to the petroleum industry because of its effect on equity and economics, and to the ERCB because of its effect on the conservation of hydrocarbons, the board notes in a recently-issued publication of background information on the forthcoming hearing.

In 1974 a similar, more localized public hearing in Brooks resulted in most south eastern Alberta target areas for wells being shifted to a corner of a drilling field to provide maximum freedom from obstructions which might interfere with farmers' irrigation operations.

Further information on next month's hearing, which will continue until April 21 if sufficient submissions are received, is available from Helmut Entrup, farmers' advocate of Alberta, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8. Tel. 427-2433.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COW-CALF ASSISTANCE ON THE WAY

Five thousand 1976 provincial government cow-calf support program cheques are due to be mailed to farmers throughout Alberta this week, according to J.S. Lore, Alberta Agriculture's livestock commissioner.

This will be the first batch of cheques distributed to farmers for the 1976 program. About 21,000 cheques valued at $37 million are expected to have been processed by the end of March.

Altogether 25,800 cow-calf producers applied for assistance in the 1976 support program. Total assistance will amount to $43 million.

Established in September of last year, the program was designed to give cow-calf producers a measure of financial assistance by providing cash flow for their farming operations. It provides for a grant of $50 per calf on 70 per cent of a cow herd to a maximum of $3,500 per producer. A taxable income provision was included in the program so that the grant plus 1975 taxable income, or the average of 1974 and 1975 taxable income, would not exceed $8,000.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL EFFECTS OF CHANGES TO PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT

The immediate impact of recent changes in the federal Pest Control Products Act will be relatively small in Alberta, says Joe Gurba, head of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch.

The federal act was altered earlier this month to revoke the exemption previously given farmers and others importing pesticides for their own use. In terms of the act as it now stands all pesticides sold, distributed and used in Canada must be registered under the Pest Control Products Act.

In Alberta, where the provincial Agricultural Chemicals Act stipulates that only pesticides registered under the federal act may be used in the province, changes in the Pest Control Products Act are expected to have two repercussions:

- Most southern Alberta farmers who used to slip into Montana for lower-priced chemical pesticides will use only Canadian registered pesticides.
- Alberta's pesticide industry, comprised of two manufacturing firms and several formulating companies, will benefit from increased usage of Canadian registered pesticides.

"There have been advantages and disadvantages in importing pesticides from the States," Mr. Gurba said. "But we have never felt the amount brought into Alberta from the U.S. to be substantial."

"It's safer for farmers to use Canadian registered products because they have been tested under Canadian conditions."

Mr. Gurba said the new regulations could cause complications if there were a recurrence of the type of situation that developed in Alberta last fall during an outbreak of rusty grain and red flour beetles.

For two months farmers were unable to locate a Canadian manufacturer of the liquid fumigant needed to solve the beetle problem. They were forced to import fumigant from the U.S. The revised Pest Control Products Act would provide an obstacle to this sort of move.

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Local Effects of Changes to Pest Control Products Act (cont'd)

However, when the federal act was altered Eugene Whelan, Canada's agriculture minister, said he expected to see an improvement in the performance of the Canadian pesticide industry.

"If the government, the pesticide industry and farmers co-operate, we can document pesticide needs and make sure there are sufficient supplies available," Mr. Gurba said.

A federal government spokesman says an advisory watchdog committee on the pesticide industry, which Mr. Whelan announced would be formed to inform him of the supply situation and price iniquities, is getting off the ground in Ottawa.

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March 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE RESULTS IN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION COSTS STUDY

The Farm Truck Cost Study being carried out by Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch in co-operation with the Alberta Wheat Pool is nearing completion.

A second set of results, dealing with the south central region of Alberta, has been released. Results for the southern region were released in December.

The final report, due to be published next month, will contain information for individual regions of Alberta as well as the province as a whole on costs incurred by farmers when transporting their grain during the 1974-75 crop year to country elevators and other primary grain collection points (feed mills, seed cleaning plants, etc.)

The joint study was initiated because farmers and elevator and railway company personnel feel changes in the grain transportation systems are both desirable and necessary.

Survey questionnaires were mailed to a random selection of farmers in the south, central and northern regions of the province. Results obtained are regarded as only an indication of farmers' transportation costs because the sample group was relatively small. However, they are expected to prove useful as guidelines for future action.

In the south central region the survey showed 36 grain trucks carried 298,495 bushels of grain to country elevators and other sales outlets, and provided 3,057,696 bushel-miles of service.

The average total grain transportation costs per farm truck were calculated to be $426.18 for the year 1974-75. Total fixed costs per truck were $184.60, or just over 43 per cent of the total grain transportation costs.

Depreciation was the largest cost component, accounting for nearly 31 per cent ($131.55) of total costs. It was followed by driver labor, responsible for just over 17 per cent ($74.24), and other hauling labor, responsible for 13 per cent ($54.02).

Variable costs such as repairs, tires and batteries, and fuel accounted for about 27 per cent ($113.35) of total grain transportation costs. Fixed costs such as interest

- (cont'd) -

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More Results in Grain Transportation Costs Study (cont'd)

on investment, insurance and licence fee were responsible for just over 12 per cent ($53.05) of total grain transportation costs.

Calculated unit costs, higher than those for the southern region, were almost 7.5¢ per bushel, about 0.6¢ per bushel-mile, and nearly 70¢ per grain-mile. Higher costs have been attributed to a lower volume of grain transported to country elevators and other sales outlets compared to the southern region.

Computer analysis of the responses received from the northern and Peace River regions is in progress. Results will be published soon, before the final report is released.

Further information can be obtained from:

Agriculture Transportation Economist
Production Economics Branch
303, 9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8
(403) 427-5395

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March 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"ALBERTA SHEEPMAN'S MANUAL"

A second edition of the "Alberta Sheepman's Manual" is now available from Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialists in Edmonton and Calgary and from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 -107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

This manual is similar to the first one except for some new recommendations in the nutrition section, new information on sheep fencing and a new section on home slaughtering and packaging of lamb for the freezer.

The "Alberta Sheepman's Manual" includes technical information on sheep facilities, management, nutrition, predator damage control, flock health, hay and pasture crops, production and cost returns and production procedures for early and late lambing. It also contains a summary of all provincial service programs and an appendix which covers feeder, yard and building designs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPPLEMENTING WINTER LIVESTOCK RATIONS

Cows and heifers should be put on a pre-breeding flushing ration unless the pasture situation changes, says G.G. Klavano, head of reproductive services in Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division.

"If a dry spring ensues, poor animal conditions and slow-growing pastures could result in cows and heifers having a late flush and a delay in reproductive peak."

Dr. Klavano's advice follows his observation of many small, weak, premature calves this year, for which he feels several factors are responsible: dry fall and poor pastures, the late arrival of fall, and cows and heifers being left at pasture until November and December on low nutritional roughage; and cows and heifers being put on minimum rations after being brought in.

"From these factors we can expect some cows and heifers to have small weak calves due to low energy and protein of the dam," he said.

E.P. Baker, Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle extension veterinarian, suggests livestock owners check with their veterinarians and nutritionists on the most economical ways to supplement what may have been meagre winter rations.

"It behooves livestock owners to assess the nutritional status of their breeding herd and correct any deficiency, especially that of energy, before the calving and breeding seasons advance," Dr. Baker said.

"The saving of too many pennies now may have disastrous consequences later in the calving and breeding seasons."

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March 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRODUCTION ECONOMICS BRANCH APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

K. D. Porter, head of Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch, has announced the appointment of Lyle Smith to the position of livestock production economist.

Mr. Smith took up his new position in the market intelligence division in January, and is currently working on a study of the economics of sheep enterprises in the Barrhead region.

His duties in general involve the assembly and analysis of economics data concerning livestock enterprises and the publication of reports and commentaries for farmers, agribusiness and the government. He will work with regional economists and other departmental staff on consensus research data and studies directed at evaluating Alberta's livestock productivity and technology.

Alberta-born Mr. Smith has a B.Sc. (agriculture) and an M. Sc. (agricultural economics) from the University of Alberta. He worked as a summer and research assistant at the university's department of plant science from 1969 until 1971, then worked on a joint federal-provincial government department of agriculture program as a dairy cost fieldman. Between 1974 and January this year Mr. Smith was livestock market economist at the Canada department of agriculture, Ottawa.

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March 21, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUGOUT WATER SHORTAGE

Farmers in areas where snowfall has been abnormally low should protect their water supplies now, warns Fairview agricultural engineering technologist, J. Blair Wright.

Low runoff, expected to be experienced in some parts of Alberta this year due to lack of snow, prevents adequate refilling of dams and dugouts. It could adversely affect farmers who depend on centralized water supplies for confined livestock such as dairy, swine and beef.

Mr. Wright, of Alberta Agriculture's field services branch, says protection of water supply could start with enlarging the drainage basin by trenching or diking into nearby ditches or across water dividers. Temporary blockage of culverts might back up enough water to allow pumping into a nearby dugout.

Water could also be pumped from seasonal streams, drainage ditches and road ditches. Water sources such as these would only be usable during periods of runoff - in spring or after a heavy rainfall. Mr. Wright advises the use of spring water if possible because it is usually cleaner and more predictable than runoff caused by rain.

Where water shortage is a recurring problem, steps should be taken to tide the farmer over drier years. The water holding capacity could be enlarged, or some kind of water harvesting practice could be attempted to ensure continued farm productivity and comfort.

For further information, contact your regional agricultural engineer or engineering technologist through your local district agriculturist and district home economist.

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AGRI·NEWS

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CANADIANA

March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PROGENY TESTING OF BEEF BULLS

Alberta's entire beef industry is expected to benefit from a recently-announced Alberta Agriculture program to support progeny testing of beef bulls.

"The progeny test has long been recognized as the most accurate way of evaluating genetic merit," commented R.J. Bunnage, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of beef cattle performance testing.

"With the general acceptance of artificial insemination (AI) by beef breeders, it was recognized that bulls entering AI studs should be adequately tested so that the best bulls might be used.

"Wide use of the best bulls and the culling of poorer bulls could lead to fairly rapid improvements throughout the beef industry."

Agriculture Canada last year implemented a young sire progeny program to encourage more progeny testing of beef bulls. When a bull that enters a progeny test is selected from the high-gaining bulls in the central test station, the owner is eligible for a grant of up to $750 towards the cost of progeny testing, which exceeds $2,000 per bull.

The Alberta young sire progeny program was formulated because, even with the federal grant applied, the cost to the bull owner was high, said Mr. Bunnage.

In terms of the provincial program, Alberta Agriculture will award a grant of up to $750 for half the cost remaining to the bull owner after the federal grant has been applied. Grants are available for bulls that are entered into formal progeny tests and are owned by Alberta residents. Rules of eligibility are similar to those for the federal program. The bulls must complete test with sufficient progeny to appear as tested on the sire monitoring program.

Further details may be obtained from the beef cattle ROP office, 8th floor, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM ACCIDENT MONITORING SYSTEM EXPANDS

The success of Alberta Agriculture's farm accident monitoring system, which recently emerged from a six-month probation period, has led to a major expansion of the project.

The data collecting system is operated by Alberta Agriculture's farm development division in co-operation with the department of labor's occupational health and safety division. It provides information on the nature of an injury, the cause of the accident, and the site of the accident, for patients that have to be hospitalized and for those that do not.

Previously, meaningful statistics on farm accidents were difficult to obtain, and the hazards of farming were not well documented.

Throughout the farm accident monitoring system's trial period, 15 hospitals monitored accidents for the project. Analysis of information obtained from these hospitals has resulted in the initiation of several expansion programs:

- The number of hospitals monitoring accidents has been increased from 15 to 36.
- A one-day farm safety workshop, available for agricultural societies, farm organizations and farm groups of 10 or more persons anywhere in the province, has been developed.
- A farm safety poster contest for schoolchildren in grades I to IV has been launched within the initial 15 monitoring areas.
- A farm safety workshop for farm trainees and farm workers has been arranged.
- Arrangements have begun for the broadcasting of radio advertisements on farm safety.

The objectives of the system are to define the farm accident problem in Alberta, to identify the factors associated with farming, to determine the point on which accident prevention programs should focus, and to establish a basis against which future accident trends can be measured and preventative programs evaluated.

The following hospitals are monitoring accidents for the system:
The Raymond, Picture Butte, Lethbridge, Olds, Glendon, Elk Point, Athabasca, Three Hills,

- (cont'd) -

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Farm Accident Monitoring System Expands (cont'd)

Pincher Creek, Myrnam, Two Hills, and Mannville Municipal Hospitals; the Hanna, Didsbury, Sundre, Red Deer, Innisfail, Barrhead, Drumheller, Boyle and Elnora General Hospitals; Medicine Hat and District Hospital; the Wetaskiwin and Wainwright General and Auxiliary Hospitals; Coaldale Community Hospital; Mary Immaculate Hospital, Willingdon; St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville; Duclose and St. Louis Hospitals, Bonnyville; John Neil Hospital, Cold Lake; St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul; St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose; St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu; Immaculata Hospital, Westlock; St. Michael's General Hospital, Lethbridge; and the Border Counties General Hospital, Milk River.

Further information can be obtained from Solomon Kyeremanteng, research officer in charge of the monitoring system, at the farm development division, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8, telephone 427-2186.

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIRDRIE-CALGARY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The 1977 Calgary Seed Show and Fair, recently cancelled through general lack of interest, has re-emerged on this year's calendar of agricultural events under a new name and in a new location.

The Airdrie-Calgary Agricultural Show will be held at the Airdrie Arena on April 23 and 24. Deadlines for submitting samples are April 1 for hay and silage; April 15 for seed; and April 20 for potatoes.

Organizers hope the introduction of a potato section, and the added attractions of farm machinery and home improvement displays will boost attendance figures to between 3,000 and 5,000.

The majority of show prizes will go to the individual winners of 10 pedigreed seed classes, nine open seed classes, six open hay classes, and two classes in the potato section.

Six championship prizes will be awarded, and five of the championship prize winners will compete for the grand championship prize.

Entry tags and copies of the show's entry forms and prize lists are obtainable from district agriculturist offices, municipal seed cleaning plants, and from Canada Agriculture's plant products division staff.

Plans are afoot to move the show back to Calgary next year and add a variety of items to the bill of fare if next month's venture is successful.

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CONTACT AGENCIES FOR CANFARM NAMED

James O'Donoghue, Alberta's deputy minister of agriculture, has named 30 Alberta firms as contact agencies for Canfarm in the province.

Canfarm is the national farm management and accounting system in which about 1,800 Alberta agricultural producers are presently registered through Alberta Agriculture and the Farm Credit Corporation.

The use of the contact agencies will expand the number of clients that can be served on the Canfarm system in Alberta, and will offer a broader choice of sources from which Canfarm services may be obtained.

Firms participating in the program will work closely with Alberta Agriculture and provide a competent staff of qualified accountants or professional agrologists to supervise the work related to the implementation of the Canfarm program.

Services the participating firms will offer to farm clients include registration, instruction on data input and recording requirements, and the review and checking of data forwarded to the Canfarm Service Agency. Related services, such as preparation of income taxes and consultation for financial or business planning, may also be provided.

The following firms have been approved to offer Canfarm in Alberta for the calendar year of 1977. Further extension will be subject to the approval of the Canfarm agency co-ordinator with Alberta Agriculture. Farmers wishing to obtain the Canfarm record system through private business may contact any of these firms. Farmers should obtain a written quotation of an annual fee from the firm before registering and, at the year's end, request a detailed invoice of services provided.

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Alberta Contact Agencies for Canfarm Named (cont'd)

BEVAN, HUTCH & CO.
#202 - 1 Street West
Box 460
Brooks, Alberta
T0J 0J0

BRYCE SMITH
145 - 5 Avenue West
Bow Island, Alberta
T0K 0G0

THORNE RIDDELL & CO.
500 Lethbridge Centre Village
1240 Second Avenue North
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1H 0E4

COWIN, MCKINNON & CO.
Chartered Accountants
#4 3515 - 17 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

FARVOLDEN & WIGGINS
208, 736 - 8 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

HUDSON & CO.
775 Barron Building
610 - 8 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.
25th Floor, One Palliser Square
Calgary, Alberta

THORNE RIDDELL CO.
1400 Box Valley Square #2
Calgary, Alberta

WISHART & BEFUS
29 Elizabeth Street
Box 777
Okotoks, Alberta

BURRINGTON, HEYWOOD, HOLMES
& HILLS
205, 4823 - 49 Street
Red Deer, Alberta

COLLEAUX AND MILLS
5207 - 50 Avenue
Taber, Alberta
T0K 0G0

WATKINSON, HANHART, DUDA,
DORCHAK & CO.
Box 698
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 3Z6

W.F. CLELLAND & CO.
402 Canada Permanent Building
315 - 8 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

DELOITTE, HASKINS & SELLS
700, 202 - 6 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

MCKINNON, ALLAN & ASSOCIATES
631 - 42 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta

STUART D. MILLER CO.
3934 - 1A Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

RANGELAND BUSINESS SERVICES LTD.
112 Center Street
Box 248
High River, Alberta

TOUCHE, ROSS & CO.
#500, 600 - 6 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

ANDERSON, MACOR, LADELL & CO.
#400, 4808 Ross Street
Red Deer, Alberta

DODSWORTH, DEY, FOSSEN & CO.
#4 Eaton Building
Camrose, Alberta

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Contact Agencies for Canfarm Named (cont'd)

MATTHEW, CRAIG, REINHEIMER & CO.
5914 Gaetz Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta

ROWLAND, PARKER, TRIEBWASSER & CO.
Box 1059
Ponoka, Alberta

DELOITTE, HASKINS & SELLS
1701 Toronto-Dominion Towers
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Z1

MACGILLIVRAY & CO.
5th Floor, Melton Building
Edmonton, Alberta

MCCULLOCH & MCCULLOCH
9526 - Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

RUSNELL, LEVERSEDGE, TOFFAN & CO.
420, 10603 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

SIBBALD, HASKIN & SELLS
1701 Toronto-Dominion Bank Tower
Edmonton Centre, Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Z1

THORNE RIDDELL & CO.
12th Floor, Royal Trust Tower
Edmonton, Alberta

WALMAX ACCOUNTING & INCOME TAX SERVICES
209 Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre
Edmonton, Alberta

BURRINGTON, HEYWOOD & HOLMES
5115 - 50 Street
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDER ASSOCIATION FINANCING IS FOR SHEEP TOO

In the past decade Alberta feeder associations have received credit through the provincial Feeder Associations Guarantee Act for the purchase of more than 800,000 cattle, but only about 25,500 sheep.

Herbert Lock, Alberta Agriculture's feeder association supervisor, feels the discrepancy may be partly due to many people's belief that feeder association financing is for cattle alone. In fact, the Feeder Associations Guarantee Act also provides financing for the purchase of feeder lambs.

The act was founded in 1933 after considerable negotiation between industry and the government. It provides for a guarantee by the government to a loaning institution for 25 per cent of a loan made to a feeder association formed under the Co-operative Marketing Associations Guarantee Act.

Originally the loan limit per association was $100,000. Today the loan limit may be adjusted at the minister's discretion by an Order in Council. Loans so established are for a period of up to 12 months.

Terms of financing are as follows:

- Financing is available for feeder animals only.
- Contracts have a maximum term of one year.
- Females over one year of age may not be purchased.
- Animals must be positively identified to be the property of the feeder association concerned, and be inspected by the supervisor of the association.
- The individual must put 5 per cent of the monies borrowed in trust with the association concerned. This could be consumed as a result of default accounts by other members in that association.
- Most associations borrow money at the prime lending rate.
- Associations charge an administration or supervision fee on a per head or per dollar basis; it is usually in the range of 1 to 1 1/2 per cent of the monies borrowed.

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Feeder Association Financing is for Sheep Too (cont'd)

- Each association must abide by regulations under the act and any individual borrowing money from an association should be made fully aware of all regulations concerned.

For more information, contact: Herbert Lock, feeder association supervisor, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8, Tel. 427-5096.

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAFE HOME RENOVATION

The approach of spring and the anticipation of a long, dry summer are bound to heighten interest in home renovation.

These suggestions, from the Home Safety Committee of the Alberta Safety Council, might be of assistance to the home renovator:

- Contact your local authorities regarding a permit and submit your plans well in advance of the time you hope to start.
- If you plan to hire non-contractors, contact the Workers' Compensation Board.
- Make sure everyone working on the premises is properly dressed, i.e. wearing hard hat, boots and gloves.
- Ensure that pets and children are kept away from the work area.
- Keep a first aid kit and fire extinguisher handy at all times.
- Keep the work area clean and well-swept.
- Use safe and proper tools. Sharpen cutting tools. Use grounded electrical tools. Use your ladder - is it the right height, and properly maintained?
- Do you need to have water or power lines disconnected? Contact the appropriate people.
- Do all heavy or dangerous work in pairs, in case of emergency.
- Keep paints, chemicals and other toxics tightly sealed and out of children's reach.
- Planning, organizing and timing are essential to a smooth, safe operation. Include time and money for the unexpected, e.g. time removal of doors and windows well for security purposes.
- Use signs to warn yourself and others of dangerous areas.
- When hauling materials do not overload the vehicle you use and ensure the materials are tied down securely. This applies to the removal of materials too, i.e. the trip to the dump.
- Check, don't guess, the structural strength of a wall before removal. It could be a support wall.
- Know your limitations. Do not over-exert yourself and risk injury to yourself or a heart attack.

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA RAT SITUATION

Rats will continue to pose a multi-million dollar damage threat and a potential health hazard to Alberta during 1977, says C.F. Barrett, animal pest control supervisor for Alberta Agriculture.

"But the ongoing interest of Alberta residents in reporting rat sightings, coupled with the continual action of rat controllers, should keep the situation as much under control as it was last year."

Last year marked the 26th consecutive year of basic freedom from Norway rats in Alberta, according to a report on the 1976 rat situation compiled by A.D. Norris, Alberta Agriculture's field supervisor, rodent and rabies vector control.

Clean-up of the six infestations remaining after the 1976 purge was continued into January. Cold weather and snow are expected to stop overland migrations from the east, ensuring Alberta remains "rat-free" until spring.

This table outlines the rat situation at the end of 1976 by municipal units along the east border, with comparative data for 1974 and 1975:

	BAIT DISTRIBUTED 1976		PREMISES CHECKED			INFESTATIONS EXTERMINATED			INFESTATIONS REMAINING DEC. 31		
	LBS. DRY	PKG.WS*	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
Improvement district #18 (Bonnyville, Cold Lake area)	158	0	271	294	233	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Vermilion River # 24	3120	180	558	607	495	40	28	14	2	1	0
Municipal district of Wainwright # 61	936	68	185	349	515	3	16	17	0	0	4
Municipal district of Provost # 52	4251	410	688	429	382	8	27	10	0	0	0
Special areas # 2, # 3, # 4 (Oyen & Consort areas)	2980	295	422	455	247	14	14	10	1	0	2
Municipal district of Acadia # 34	1920	0	160	160	160	0	3	1	0	0	0
Improvement districts # 1 & # 2 'Medicine Hat area)	1336	223	546	546	306	4	5	32	0	0	0
TOTAL FOR PROVINCE	14701	1176	2830	2840	2338	69	93	84	3	1	6

* packages water-soluble

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Alberta Rat Situation (cont'd)

The following information was included in the 1976 situation report:

Invading rats were halted along the 18 mile wide, 380 mile long buffer zone extending from the Montana border north to Cold Lake during 1976. Altogether 2,338 farms, grain elevators and other premises were checked periodically by municipal and provincial officers and many infestations were systemically eradicated through the co-operative action of residents and pest control officers.

Confirmed rat infestations in 1976 along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border decreased to 90 in 1976 from 94 in the previous year. Warfarin bait continued to provide the most effective control - about 7.4 tons of ready-mixed warfarin bait and 1,176 packages of water-soluble bait were used to destroy thousands of migrating rats before they became established and multiplied. An estimated 19,000 rats were destroyed along the eastern border.

In May 1976 four people were hired to fill vacancies in various districts along the buffer zone. Some of these areas went without intensive pest control programs for a considerable length of time, which gave the rats a head start and allowed them to establish themselves within our border. The rats were halted before they migrated through the buffer zone, thus keeping Alberta basically rat-free for another year.

Farther within the province, one rat sighting at Beaverlodge was confirmed. The rodent was found drowned in a water barrel. A thorough check of the area revealed no other rat sign and the rat was thought to have dropped from a truck or some other source of transportation.

Emphasis remained fixed on public relations and education. All suspected cases reported were investigated and identified promptly, thanks to an alert and "rat conscious" public. Such cases were handled by some 250 pest control officers appointed by rural and urban municipalities. Most of the rats reported sighted turned out to be harmless muskrats.

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Alberta Rat Situation (cont'd)

"The major portion of the credit for Alberta's status as a 'rat-free province' must go to Albertans themselves," the report says. "The tremendous support and co-operation of the public has once again proved that the world's most destructive rodent can be excluded from an area as large as Alberta. With continued help we intend to maintain our reputation as a rat-free province."

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March 28, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEGINNER BEEKEEPERS COURSE

A beekeeping course involving six home study lessons and two seminars is scheduled to take place at Lakeland College on the Vermilion campus in April.

Mainly designed for beginner and hobby beekeepers who have from one to 20 colonies, the course could also be useful to people who would like to work as apprentices or helpers in the commercial beekeeping field.

The first seminar will be held on April 28 and 29 to give participants an opportunity to learn beekeeping techniques through the handling of bees and equipment under supervision. The second seminar is scheduled for September 1 and 2 so that participants get practical experience in harvesting, extracting and storing honey. They will also learn how to overwinter honeybee colonies.

Although emphasis will be placed on the production of liquid honey, production of comb honey will also be covered in the course.

Tuition for the two seminars and the set of six home study lessons is only $48. Room and board will be available at the college for $6.50 per day.

Those wishing to register for the course should contact the Regional Co-ordinator, Lakeland College, Vermilion Campus, Vermilion, Alberta, T0B 4M0 (Telephone: 853-5366).

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOSTS, STUDENTS NEEDED IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

More than 50 eastern Canadian agricultural college students are due to arrive in Alberta next month for the start of Alberta Agriculture's first agricultural student exchange program.

The success of the program will hinge on more farmers volunteering to host students on farms in Alberta, and some Alberta students agreeing to work on farms in the east.

The eastern students, from Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, will stay on farms throughout Alberta until early September to gain more farm working experience. They have all worked on farms in eastern Canada, but have agreed to receive minimum farm wages of $450 a month, plus room and board.

Interviews with the students, men and women aged 18 to 24, were completed only recently. Walter McNary, Alberta Agriculture's farm training director, is now anxious to find suitable host farmers for the students.

Mr. McNary is also waiting for Alberta agricultural students to volunteer to go to eastern Canada on the exchange program. However, only a few farms are available for Alberta students this year.

Application forms for prospective hosts are available from district agriculturists' offices. Mr. McNary can be contacted at: Alberta Agriculture, 4910 - 52 Street, Camrose, T4V 2V4, Tel. 672-3347.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE EASY, RAPID INCORPORATION

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch is warning farmers to beware of companies offering "tailor-made" incorporation.

"We recently became aware of business firms that, after obtaining from Central Registry the names of newly-formed partnerships or businesses that have registered a new trade name, send letters promoting tailor-made ways to incorporate," said Len Fullen, agricultural economist with the branch.

"The advantages and disadvantages of incorporating should be studied together, and any farmer about to proceed with incorporation would be wise to check out all implications with his accountant or lawyer."

One of the factors to consider is that, as a single proprietor, a farmer is allowed to utilize the rollover provisions of the Income Tax Act to leave his farming property to his children and defer the payment of capital gains tax so long as he or one of his immediate family members is farming the land immediately prior to the transfer.

However, if the same farmer incorporated his farming business, including his farm land, he would not be allowed to utilize the rollover provisions -- any taxable capital gains realized when his shares were transferred to his children would be included in his income.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS AMENDMENT ACT PROCLAIMED

Alberta's Livestock and Livestock Products Amendment Act, 1973, established to provide for a Livestock Patrons Assurance Fund and for licensing of various livestock premises, was proclaimed April 1.

The proclamation of the act was delayed pending draft of regulations.

The effective level of the Livestock Patrons Assurance Fund has been raised from $250,000 to a current maximum of $500,000. Alberta Agriculture expects this new amount, to be provided by license fees from livestock dealers, will provide an increased measure of security to all Alberta farmers.

The new regulations also include revised definitions of "stockyards" and "licensed livestock dealers". It will now be necessary for the terminal markets in Edmonton and Calgary to be licensed by provincial authorities. These facilities must now comply with all elements of the provincial legislation.

Any licensed livestock dealer who has not yet received formal notification and explanation of the amendments to the act and the regulations is urged to contact K.J. Spiller, head of regulatory services and feeder associations, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8, Tel. 427-5098.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NEW RAPESEED VARIETIES LICENSED

The federal department of agriculture has licensed two new varieties of rapeseed, Candle (Polish) and Regent (Argentine).

CANDLE

Candle, which was developed by Dr. Keith Downey, plant breeder at Agriculture Canada's Saskatoon station, is the first low-erucic, low glucosinolate Polish variety ever developed. It has a partially yellow seedcoat.

The objective behind the development of Candle was to fill Alberta's need for a 00 Polish variety which would make the province's crushing plants competitive with those in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which have access to the 00 Tower Argentine variety.

Candle has a significantly higher oil content than Torch -- it's oil content is 106 per cent that of Torch. It has 1 per cent more actual protein than Torch, 3.8 per cent less actual fibre in the oil-free meal, and it has the lowest glucosinolate content of any rapeseed produced in Canada.

It's resistance to white rust, or staghead, is regarded as a significant improvement on past varieties.

Because there is a possibility the mixed yellow seedcoat of Candle would be mistaken for mustard if Candle were entered into the export market, Candle has been licensed under a restricted distribution. The variety will be handled only through three processing plants in Alberta, under a contract basis. This means a farmer who would like to grow Candle must contact one of the three firms: Canbra Foods, Lethbridge; United Oilseed Products, Lloydminster; or Northern Alberta Rapeseed Processors, Sexsmith. Each of these plants will be contracting 15,000 acres for 1977.

Twenty-one producers in Saskatchewan and Alberta grew Candle in 1976. They liked the agronomic characteristics of the new rapeseed. Results of federal and

- (cont'd) -

Alberta

Two New Rapeseed Varieties Licensed (cont'd)

provincial varietal testing show Candle's average yield is 10 per cent lower than that of Torch in Alberta. But P. Thomas, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of oilseed crops, says farmers who grew Candle last year believed it's yield was as good as or better than that of Torch.

"It is highly unlikely that Candle as a variety will be replaced by a superior 00 Polish within the next four or five years," Mr. Thomas said.

REGENT

The new Argentine variety Regent was licensed to replace Tower. It's agronomic characteristics, including yield, are equivalent to those of Midas.

Regent is a 00 Argentine variety. It's length of maturity is similar to that of Midas, so it will be restricted largely to the Argentine-growing areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. There will be a limited acreage in Alberta.

Regent seed will be distributed to select rapeseed growers during 1977. The distribution of foundation and certified seed is scheduled for 1978.

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April 4, 1977
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING THE BEEF COW AFTER CALVING

It is vitally important that beef producers meet the greatly increased feed requirements of cows that have just calved, says R.E. Berg, animal nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

"Failure to do so reduces the growth rate of the calf and results in problems with the rebreeding of the cow," Ms. Berg said. "It would lead to this year's breeding season being extended, and there would be a consequent extension of next year's calving season.

"A cow's feed requirements increase markedly after calving because the animal needs to produce milk for her calf. Special attention to feed also hastens the cow's recovery from calving and allows the cows to start cycling sooner and with better conception rates."

Each additional 1 lb./ day of milk produced by the cow ensures an average of 10 lbs. higher weaning weight on her calf, said Ms. Berg.

She suggested the following ration samples, based on average feed analysis and average requirements, for meeting a cow's feed requirements after calving. Adjustments for different farm situations should be based on feed quality, cow weights, levels of production, and the general condition of the cows.

	1000 lb. Cow Low Production 10 lb./day	1200 lb. Cow Moderate Production 25 lb./day
RATION A:		
Alfalfa Hay (lb./head/day)	22	33
RATION B:		
Grass Hay (lb./head/day)	20	24
Oats Grain (lb./head/day)	3	8.5
RATION C:		
Oat Straw (lb./head/day)	15	12
Alfalfa Hay (lb./head/day)	10	23
RATION D:		
Cereal Silage (65% moisture, lbs./head/day)	57	70
Oats Grain (lb./head/day)	-	4.5

The producer is advised to complement the above rations with cobalt-iodized salt, a 1:1 mineral supplement and 50,000 I.U./head/day vitamin A.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM IMPLEMENTS CATALOGUE PUBLISHED

Alberta's department of business development and tourism has published the first edition of a farm implements catalogue aimed at giving the industry exposure for its products as well as aiding prospective farm equipment users.

About 40 Alberta manufacturers, who together produce more than 130 products, are featured in the catalogue. The 100-page publication contains illustrations of equipment available, and descriptions of each item.

Farm implements described include soil preparation and seeding equipment; earth-moving equipment; front-end loaders and attachments; livestock handling and feeding equipment; trailers and transports; and truck boxes and hoists.

The catalogue is available free of charge from district agriculturists' offices.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENCE AGAINST DROUGHT

The lack of rain in late summer and fall and the shortage of snow during the winter is causing many cattlemen in southern and eastern Alberta some worry this spring.

The following recommendations, put forward by five successful mid-western U.S. ranchers as a guide to good defence against drought, appeared in a recent issue of the Rangeman's Journal, published by the Society for Range Management:

1. Maintain a 1-year supply of forage (standing hay), and have a year's food reserve.

2. Have a flexible herd composition. For example, yearling steers in addition to breeding cows. Have from 2/3 to 3/4 of total herd in the cow-calf operation.

3. Rest native pastures periodically through deferment or a grazing system. Always have a pasture to graze that was rested the year before.

4. Deferment is never a loss of forage - merely a period for increasing plant vigor and a forage supply for later use. It is like putting money in a savings account - just setting it aside to be enlarged in value and reserve in emergencies.

5. Sell early - cull heavy at the first sign of drought to reduce the need of leasing expensive pastures or buying high priced hay.

6. Adjustments in cattle numbers must be made before either range or stock suffer. Range will always suffer first. Buying or wintering stock should be based on what can be summered without hurting the range rather than on any surplus winter hay.

7. Have an orderly marketing system rather than trying to "outguess" the market.

8. Always leave some grass unused to maintain a mulch cover. It is the rain we keep that counts, for unless we are efficient in this, we can't even hope to succeed in the others.

9. Do not get "married" to the livestock. Always keep some stock that are expendable in critical drought periods. Avoid situations where you have to sell at another man's price.

10. Our basic production is grass - investments in grass improvements and restoration are more important even than investments in improved breeding by any other investment on the ranch.

R. A. Wroe, Alberta Agriculture's range management specialist, said all but the first and third recommendations apply to all ranches in Alberta.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE CUSTOM RATE SURVEY RESULTS

The Alberta agricultural monitoring system, run jointly by Unifarm and Alberta Agriculture, has released a list of rental charges for granular herbicide applicators and custom milling mixing operations.

The system has been providing data on custom rates in Alberta on a regular basis since its inception last fall. A variety of farm operations are under investigation. The information is supplied by less than 50 monitors throughout the province, and is offered as a guide to custom rates rather than as a rigid fact sheet.

The following constitutes the survey's latest findings:

Granular Herbicide Application Rental

Per acre rates: from 50¢ - 75¢

Per day rates: from $50 - $75

Work rate, depending on spreader width: 20-30 acres per hour

Granular herbicide must be broadcast evenly to be effective. Modified fertilizer distributors, excluding spinner spreaders, and specialized dribble spreaders are used for application.

Many retail outlets rent application equipment. There were few reports of custom application by ground spreaders, but this situation could change now that hopper boxes and metering equipment are available for attachment to seeders, discers and cultivators, machines widely used by custom operators.

Custom Milling and Mixing

Mobile self-contained trucks with mixers (use not wide, according to reports): rates: $32 - $34 per hour

work rate: 3-5 tons per hour

Stationary feed mill (trucking charges not included):

grain rolling: $3 - $4 per ton

hammer milling: $3 - $4 per ton or, occasionally, $1 per ton more than the charge for rolling.

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More Custom Rate Survey Results (cont'd)

These rates may vary according to the tonnage handled.

Additional information on custom rates can be obtained from "Farm Macninery Costs as a Guide to Custom Rates", a publication compiled by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Copies are available from district agriculturists' offices, and from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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April 4, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1977

Canada Grains Council Annual Meeting
Winnipeg Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . April 5-6

National Controlled Atmosphere Research Conference
Kellogg Centre, Michigan State University
Michigan State, U.S.A. . . . . April 5-7

International Agricultural Plastics Congress 1977
Town & Country Hotel Convention Center
San Diego, California, U.S.A. . . . . April 11-16

Edmonton Branch Alberta Institute of Agrologists' -
Annual Meeting
Dept. of Animal Science, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 12

Alfalfa Processors Co-op Association (Alberta Ltd.)
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . April 12 & 13

Airdrie-Calgary Seed Fair & Hay Show
Airdrie Arena
Airdrie, Alberta. . . . . April 23 & 24

Fourth International Dairy Industry Exhibition
Parma, Italy. . . . . April 27 - May 1

Fourth Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing
Quebec City, P.Q. . . . . May 16-18

Alberta Women's Institutes Annual Convention
Olds Agriculture College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . May 30, 31 & June 1, 2

Western Canada Egg & Poultry Association
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff, Alberta . . . . . June 5-7

University of Guelph Forage Days
Guelph, Ontario . . . . . June 7-9

World Aberdeen Angus Forum
Edinburgh, Scotland . . . . . June 10-23

Sixty-first Annual Sessions of the Internation Dairy
Federation
Old Parliament Building
Stockholm, Sweden. . . . . June 12-17

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Provincial Plowing Match
Wanham, Alberta. . . . . June 16-18

University of Alberta - Feeders Day
Ponoka, Alberta . . . . . June 16

1977 Alberta Pork Congress
Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 21-23

Highland Show
Edinburgh, Scotland . . . . . June 21-24

American Society of Agricultural Engineers
North Carolina State,
Raleigh, N.C. U.S.A. . . . . June 26-29

International Symposium on Hydrology
Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. . . . . June 27-29

Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture
Semi-Annual Meeting
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . June 28 & 29

Rural Electrification Association
Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 28 & 29

Canadian Seed Trade Association
54th Annual Convention
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . . July 3-5

International Egg Commission Meeting
Four Seasons Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 3-8

The Royal Show
National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh
Kenilworth, Warwickshire, England. . . . . July 4-7

National Institute of Farm Safety Inc.
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . July (first week)

Provincial Weed Tour
County No. 24 Vermilion River
Vermilion, Alberta . . . . . July 6-8

Alberta Institute of Agrologists
Provincial Conference
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds (Chalet)
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 7-9

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Seed Growers Association Annual Conference
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 13-15

Third International Farm Management Congress
Hamburg, West Germany . . . . . July 17-22

"The North American Lily Society" 30th Annual
International Lily Show
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 17-19

Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede
Stampede Park
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . . July 25-30

Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Semi-Annual Meeting
New Brunswick . . . . . July 26-28

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . . August 8-11

National Appaloosa Horse Show
Stampede Park
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . . August 11-14

Alberta Polled Hereford Club -
Annual Meeting
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . August 13

Agricultural Institute of Canada -
Canadian Institute of Food Science & Technology
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario . . . . . August 14-18

Canada and World Food Symposium
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . August 22-24

Canadian Hatchery Federation Annual Convention
Bayshore Inn
Vancouver, B.C. . . . . Sept. 26-29

Canada Grains Council Semi-Annual Meeting
Montreal, Quebec . . . . . Oct. 25 & 26

United Grain Growers Ltd. - Annual Meeting
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . Nov. 2 & 3

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Beekeepers Association Annual Convention
Carriage House Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 2-4

Women of Unifarm Annual Convention
Grande Prairie Motor Inn
Grande Prairie, Alberta . . . . . November 8 & 9

Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth -
Alberta Tour
Calgary & Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 20-24

Agricultural Fieldmans Inservice Training
Sandman Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 21-25

Canada Weed Committee (Western Section)
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 29 - December 1

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
36th Annual Meeting
Park Plaza Motor Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . December

Alberta Cattle Commission Annual General Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . December 7 & 8

American Society of Agricultural Engineers
Meeting "The Food-Energy Fix"
Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. . . . . December 13-16

1978

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 9-13

Western Agricultural Conference
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 25 & 26

Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 6-8

Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Annual Meeting
Quebec City, P.Q. . . . . February 13-16

- (cont'd) -

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Branch Canadian Seed Growers
Association Annual Meeting
(Hotel to be announced)
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 6 & 7

International Soil Science Congress
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . June 19-27

Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Canadian
Institute of Food Science & Technology
Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . June 25-28

Alberta Polled Hereford Club Annual Meeting
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . August 12

Seventeenth Tri-Annual Internation Conference
of Agricultural Economists
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . September 5-15, 1979

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THIS WEEK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA SEEDING INTENTIONS

Farmers in Alberta have indicated a significant decrease in the number of acres to be sown to wheat.

Fred Boyce, statistician with Alberta Agriculture, said the March 15 survey of planting intentions conducted by Statistics Canada showed wheat acreage is expected to drop 11 per cent from 1976 - a decrease of 600,000 acres. Spring wheat is down 9 per cent and durum 33 per cent. The survey also indicates a 5 per cent decline in oats - a reduction of 100,000 acres from 2.2 million in 1976 to 2.1 million in 1977.

Barley, rapeseed and summerfallow acreages are expected to increase this year. Rapeseed indications are for the substantial increase in land sown to this crop. Total rapeseed acreage is expected to reach 1.5 million acres from 1976 (76 per cent). Barley acreage should increase to 5.9 million acres, up 200,000 acres from 1976. Summerfallow acreage is expected to increase by 100,000 acres this year, and should reach 6.8 million acres.

The survey correspondents reported little or no change for most other seeded crops.

"These figures represent farmers seeding intentions as of March 15," Mr. Boyce stressed. "The actual seeded acreage may vary substantially from the above due to various reasons such as market prices, weather, other cultural practices and even this report itself."

The Canadian intentions to plant are as follows:

	million acres		
	1977	1976	%77/76
All Wheat	24.7	27.5	90
Oats	6.8	6.8	100
Barley	12.3	11.1	111
Rye	0.7	0.8	88
Flaxseed	1.2	0.9	137
Rapeseed	3.4	2.0	170
Summerfallow	27.7	27.3	101
Potatoes	0.3	0.29	103

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CALF SCOURS STUDY RESULTS

Colostrum, calving injuries, overcrowding and nutrition require most attention in the control of calf scours.

These are some of the findings of an ongoing calf scours project being conducted in Edmonton. They reinforce the results of previous research done in Saskatchewan, Alberta and elsewhere.

A team of veterinarians in the provincial diagnostic laboratory, working in co-operation with practising veterinarians, started working on the Edmonton calf scours project two years ago.

F. P. Baker, beef cattle extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture, documented the following research findings:

Colostrum-related scours

The early ingestion of sufficient colostrum by the newborn calf is of great importance. The antibodies in the first milk have a profound effect on the calf's ability to resist viral and bacterial infection. Because the intestinal cells stop absorbing these antibodies a few hours after birth, timing of the first feeding is extremely important.

Cattlemen seem to be striving for earlier calving. This may result in calves being stressed by cold weather and becoming more prone to colostrum-related problems. Early calving necessitates much more supervision than stockmen have been accustomed to giving in the past. It should be emphasized that heifers have less colostrum, which is usually of a lower quality, than cows, and "banks" of frozen colostrum may be necessary in herds experiencing severe calf scour losses.

Parturition-related scours

Injuries resulting from difficult births make calves more susceptible to calf scours. The effects of these injuries are themselves often mistaken for calf scours. Recorded parturition injuries in suspected calf scour cases submitted to the laboratory include collapsed or broken ribs, broken spinal columns, damaged sciatic nerves and frozen limbs.

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Alberta

Calf Scours Study Results (cont'd)

Due to the increased use of larger breeds, the incidence of parturition related scours has increased, especially in cross-breeding programs utilizing heifers. Scours are often a problem when these heifers, low in colostrum and colostral antibodies, poor in motherly instinct, and requiring assistance at calving time, begin to calve. The calves are often large, and born late in the spring in highly contaminated, confined quarters. The oral inoculation of bacteria is high, the colostral antibody protection is low, and the "parturition-related" problems prevent the calf from rising to suck, making scours the rule rather than the exception.

The poor mothering instincts of heifers makes it difficult for stockmen to avoid such problems.

Scours related to population density

The importance of sanitation, stocking density and isolation of sick animals cannot be overemphasized.

The drastic drop in the number of calf scour cases when the population density was decreased has been documented during these years of poor cattle prices. But some of the most severe scour problems have occurred in recently-expanded herds where holding facilities, feed supplies and manpower have been pushed to the limit simultaneously.

Crowded, wet pens heavily contaminated with disease bacteria favour the rapid spread of infection by contaminated teats, common feed containers and severe calf stress. Medical treatments usually fail to control calf scours under these conditions until drastic measures are taken to change the unfavourable environmental conditions. These measures include rapid removal of sick calves, providing dry protected sleeping areas where calves can voluntarily separate from the older animals, and supplying adequate rations of good milk production.

The population density can be decreased by plowing roads through fields and establishing separate feeding stations. These stations are best located where natural weather protection is best.

Nutrition-related scours

Nutrition has been a major contributing factor in scour problems.

This year, with depressed cattle prices, poor quality hay and a general shortage of

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Calf Scours Study Results (cont'd)

winter feed, nutritional factors could contribute to calf scour problems in spring. Many cows were pastured late into the fall despite the inability of the pasture to provide adequate nutrition. Unless minerals, vitamins, protein and energy are increased over normal feeding practices, aborted and weak calves may result.

Poor nutritional status of calving cows and heifers often results in prolonged birth, poor colostrum and milk production, and weak calves.

Ongoing research in calf scours indicates that management factors, particularly those outlined above, are more often responsible for calf scour problems than are elusive bacterial or viral organisms. Among the farm animals, probably no other species is born in such a state of immune immaturity as the bovine young. The calf relies on colostrum for protection against initial contact with disease agents, and develops most of its own protective antibodies during the neonatal period.

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CORRECTION:

The following items should have been included in the "Coming Events" issued in April 4 "Agri-News".

Fifteenth Annual Field Day
Alberta Horticultural Research Center
Brooks, Alberta
August 26, 1977

Thirteenth Annual Hort.-Week Program
Olds College
Olds, Alberta
August 1-6, 1977

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April 11, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN GRAIN RESEARCH FUND PLEBISCITE

Preparations for the upcoming Western Grain Research Fund plebiscite are nearing completion.

It is anticipated that 250,000 plebiscite ballots, accompanied by explanatory pamphlets and covering letters, will be mailed to grain producers in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and part of British Columbia in May. June 20 is the deadline for returning ballots.

If 50 per cent plus one of the ballots returned are in favour of a check-off on grain deliveries, the funds from which would be used for western grain research, enabling federal legislation will be drafted.

According to the proposed constitution, the check-off would take the form of a levy to be set initially at 0.1 per cent of the total realized price to the producer i.e. $1 for every $1,000 of commodity sold. On the average, this would amount to $15-$20 a year. It is proposed the levy may not be adjusted more than 0.05 per cent per year, to a maximum of 0.25 per cent. Collection would be on per tonne levy by the grain companies through their head offices.

The proposed 11-person Western Grain Research Fund Board would be comprised of a member from each of the following: Alberta Wheat Pool, Canadian Seed Growers Association (prairie branches), Flax Growers Western Canada, Manitoba Farm Bureau, Manitoba Pool Elevators, Palliser Wheat Growers Association, Prairie Rapeseed Growers Council, Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Unifarm and United Grain Growers.

The information pamphlet to be mailed out with the ballots will pose and answer various questions about the proposal. In answer to a question on why farmers should pay for research, it states that the fund would increase by 15 per cent the $20 million amount currently spent on research for the six grains.

The pamphlet explains that the board would have ultimate authority over the distribution of funds for research projects, but would be assisted by an advisory committee

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Western Grain Research Fund Plebiscite (cont'd)

The proposed constitution states the performance of the project would be tested by plebiscite if, after five years, 5 per cent of the producers by petition/25 per cent of the board called for this.

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April 11, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PACKAGE REVISED

A revised edition of the Financial Management Package prepared by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch is now available.

"Financial planning is a vital component of any business because it allows the manager to adjust the business operation in accordance with changes in prices and costs of production," says H. Warne, supervisor of financial managment with Alberta Agriculture.

The Financial Management Package consists of seven sets of worksheets to assist a farmer in evaluating his past business performance and developing short and long term plans for the future.

A brief outline of the worksheets is provided below:

Worksheet No. 1 - Net Worth Statement: provides forms to assist a farmer in preparing an inventory of assets and liabilities. Totals from the forms are transferred to a Net Worth Statement, which shows the financial position of the farmer at a certain date. By comparing this to previous Net Worth Statements, one can determine the financial progress made from year to year.

Worksheet No. 2 - Statement of Income and Expenses: with this worksheet one can determine the profit or loss of the farm business over the past year, and project income and expenses for the coming year.

Worksheet No. 3 - Farm Business Performance and Financial Indicators: consists of forms to assist the farmer in evaluating the Net Worth Statement and Statement of Income and Expenses. By carefully examining the results one can identify needs for changes in management practices and rearrangement of debts. The worksheet assists the farmer in outlining intended production for the coming year along with the associated income and expenses.

Worksheet No. 4 - Operating Plan: provides forms enabling one to outline the intended farm production for the coming year along with the associated income and expenses. The

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Financial Management Package Revised (cont'd)

operating plan is used in determining the returns if major changes are being made to the farm operation.

Worksheet No. 5 - Partial Budget: is provided to assist a farmer in evaluating a proposed change that involves only a part of his business operation. The partial budget is a useful planning tool for determining whether a proposal is profitable and the best way to use limited funds.

Worksheet No. 6 - Cash Flow: enables a farmer to determine the optimum time for the arrangement of major purchases and payments on loans. It also assists one to determine the operating credit necessary to carry out an operating plan.

Worksheet No. 7 - Projected Income and Expenses For Tax Planning: assists a farmer in estimating his net farm income for tax purposes before the end of the current year. By making this calculation he can conduct business transactions before the year's end that will increase or decrease his taxable income to the most advantageous position.

Copies of the Financial Management Package may be obtained from your local District Agriculturists' office or the Publications Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

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RESEARCH ON RUMINANTS' FAT

Eating the fat on a beef steak might one day be equated with eating margarine.

Research has revealed that a protective protein coating on fats in the feed of ruminants such as cattle markedly increases the proportion of unsaturated fatty acids in the muscle tissue of growing and fattening beasts and in the milk fat of cows.

This was one of the topics under discussion at a recent meeting of the British Cattle Breeders Club, a report of which was sent to Alberta Agriculture.

Coating fats in the animal's diet with protein (formaldehyde was used) results in the constituent fatty acids being absorbed unsaturated in the small intestine because the coating is only broken down when the fat reaches the true stomach, according to the report.

Normally the cow's food is broken down by a vast number of microbes before it reaches the true stomach.

The microbes eventually form part of the animal's protein supply. Volatile fatty acids are also produced in the rumen and absorbed through its walls to provide the animal's main energy supply. Fats in the animal's diet are also subject to microbiological change. The long chain molecules of the vegetable fatty acids are hydrogenated, i.e. the fat becomes saturated.

This ongoing line of research is of major interest to beef-producing farmers in England. A recent survey of a representative sample of consumers showed 46 per cent of them - including 62 per cent of the boys and 55 per cent of the girls under 16 who were interviewed - cut the fat off their portion of beef and leave it on the plate.

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Alberta

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April 11, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELLERSLIE BULL SALE

Alberta Agriculture's seventh annual performance tested bull sale will take place at the Alberta beef cattle test station at Ellerslie on April 22.

The sale is reverting back to the form of a public auction after four years of private treaty sales. It starts at 1 P.M. A Field Day to be held in the morning starts at 10:30 A.M.

About 100 bulls, the top-gaining 60 per cent of bulls tested over a 140-day period ending April 13, will be on sale. An average daily gain of 2.93 lb./day per bull was recorded over the first 112 days of the testing period.

Organizers expect a wide range of blood lines and types to be available in each of the major breeds on sale -- Charolais, Shorthorn and Simmentaler -- as well as the commercial barn.

Three hundred people were drawn to last year's sale.

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Alberta
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April 11, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 PER CENT PARTLY SKIMMED MILK IN SMALL CONTAINERS

Peg Thompson, marketing officer with Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch, has compiled a list of factors she feels might help consumers understand why the introduction of 2 per cent partly skimmed milk in small containers came about in Alberta:

- From 1974-75 total commercial sales of partly skimmed (2 per cent) milk in Canada rose from 828 million quarts to over 870 million quarts. Alberta registered the highest percentage of sales. In Alberta, 2 per cent partly skimmed milk accounted for 59.3 per cent of total sales in 1975, homogenized milk accounted for 37.5 per cent, and skim milk for 3.2 per cent.
- Indication of preference for 2 per cent milk emerged in Alberta Agriculture's nutrition at school program.
- The market for 8-ounce cartons has been established in response to consumer demands for milk in small containers. Consumers will buy in small containers, although primarily as a convenience purchase.
- Four major dairies felt there was a market for 2 per cent milk in small containers. However, due to costs involved, they prefer to market only one white milk in small containers, either homogenized or 2 per cent, not both.
- Two marketing economists expressed that, economically, they could see no reason why it would not be to the advantage of all concerned parties.
- With 2 per cent milk, the caloric and saturated fat intake can be substantially reduced from whole milk without losing protein, calcium, riboflavin or vitamin A (vitamin A enrichment of 2 per cent milk is now mandatory). Extra calories and saturated fat are associated with problems of overweight and heart disease.
- The provincial president of the Consumers' Association of Canada (Alberta branch) expressed to the Alberta Dairy Control Board a preference for 2 per cent partly skimmed milk after a motion was passed approving 2 per cent milk in 8-ounce containers.

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April 11, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING FASHION - ANYTHING GOES

by Betty Birch
District Home Economist
Alberta Agriculture, Stettler

Fashion slaves will be tying, wrapping, snapping or buttoning their pant legs at the bottom, harem style, this spring.

However, no single look stands out for the season, according to Doreen Al-Adra, Alberta Agriculture's assistant clothing and textile specialist, so you can develop your own individual sense of fashion.

The Romantic Look will be evident in strapless and one-shoulder dresses of soft drapable fabrics. Taffeta, eyelet and floral prints will be used in styles that have draw-string waists and handkerchief hems.

Tailored simple lines of the Classic Look are seen in blazers, skirts, culottes and pants. Contrast piping and bands outline structural details.

The Blouson Look will top skirts or pants. Pants are narrower and found in a variety of lengths. Short shorts, capri pants, gauchos, above the ankle pants - anything goes.

Watch for the Peasant Look in full, bellowy skirts either gathered or pleated, often seen in two layers. Wide peasant necklines are worn off the shoulder. Short vests, shawls and rick-rack trim contribute to a festive mood.

The fashion "experts" tell us we should be wearing flat-heeled sandals with peasant skirts, and dressier shoes will have ankle accents like ties or straps.

Tying fabric sashes at the waist or hips is a good idea for updating old outfits.

The fabrics this season continue to follow the "natural" trend. Linen-like, silk-like and pique fabrics give textural interest. Shiny, glossy surfaces seem elegant and luxurious. Functional materials such as poplin, canvas, twill, gabardine and denim will maintain their popularity for sportswear. Handbags for this spring will be popular in canvas, cane or jute.

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Alberta

Spring Fashion - Anything Goes (cont'd)

Colours this spring are bright and contrasting. Hot pink, fluourescent red, bright emerald and pure yellow are favorites. White is the number one neutral often combined with black or one bright colour. Stripes continue to hold their own, and earth-tones are still popular.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has announced that the Market Garden Development Program will be continued again this year.

Initiated in 1976, this program is intended to increase market gardening in Alberta by providing assistance to growers in the form of development grants. These grants are to be used for buying seed, fertilizer, garden equipment etc. The grant is $200 for a minimum of two acres or $300 for three or more acres of vegetables and/or fruit.

To be eligible for one of these grants, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of two acres. The grants cover all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberries and strawberries. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold directly to the consumer. Marketing can be done, for example, through farm gate sales, farmers' markets or on a 'pick-your-own' basis.

Since a market garden is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, a person who has already received a grant under the Market Garden Development Program and a grant under the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program or two grants under the Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year. However, he is eligible for a long-term, low interest loan under the Vegetable Producers Loan Program which was initiated last year. These loans are available through the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation.

Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants under the Market Garden Development Program must file an application by July 1 with the Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from the horticulture branch and from district agriculturists.

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April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BUDGET PROVISIONS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

by Len Fullen
Alberta Agriculture's Taxation Specialist

Although federal finance minister Donald Macdonald's recent budget speech has had some fairly negative reaction from across Canada, there were a few provisions which should be welcomed by all farmers.

Effective April 1, 1977, there will be a deferral of any capital gain or recapture of capital cost allowance that arises when a farmer (or other businessman) voluntarily sells a capital property (such as land, buildings, etc.) or eligible capital property (such as a quota) that is used for the purpose of producing income from a business, providing that the taxpayer uses the proceeds to acquire similar property by the end of the following taxation year. At this point it has not been determined exactly what the "etc." covers with regard to the sale of capital property or what constitutes "similar property". For instance, could a rancher sell his land and buy a smaller place with a feedlot on it? Further clarification of this point will have to come from Revenue Canada - Taxation Division.

The 5 per cent investment tax credit which was to have expired on July 1, 1977, has now been extended to July 1, 1980. This means that 5 per cent of the cost of investments in new machinery, equipment and buildings will be allowed as a direct deduction from federal tax payable. Also, the amount of the credit has been increased to 7.5 per cent in slower growth regions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northern Ontario and to 10 per cent in the Atlantic provinces. However, in Alberta and British Columbia the tax credit will remain at 5 per cent. (If you made investments during 1976 that qualify for this 5 per cent credit, remember you can make this deduction on the 1976 income tax return).

Anybody who would like information on the other changes introduced by the budget should contact their regional farm economist.

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April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT VERSUS FORAGE CROPS

If forage crops are given an equal chance with grain, they will bring equal returns to grain.

This is the opinion of Art Tilma, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Thorhild, who believes that it is time that Prairie farmers did something to alleviate the shortage of seeded pastures and hayfields for our ever increasing number of cattle.

He points out that the unlimited grass that our forefathers inherited when they first arrived in the Prairie provinces three generations ago has almost disappeared, and that we now have about 2 million more cattle in this area than we had only a generation ago. "If it were not for wheat straw and the Western farmer's ingenuity in scratching up some sort of feed, including high priced grain," says Mr. Tilma, "many of these animals would starve to death."

What remains of the unlimited grassland of three generations ago is more often than not overstocked, abused and total'y unproductive. "This free gift of nature was exploited by two generations of Western farmers and it now falls to the third generation to invest something in the land to ensure a continuation of our livestock industry," Mr. Tilma says. He thinks we have not done badly as grain farmers, but that, apart from numbers,we are way behind in the livestock field.

"Ideally," he explains, "we should have seeded more forage before increasing our cattle herds. Failing this, we should have increased our forage supplies as we increased our herds. However, we did neither of these things because we hate to use so-called valuable grainland for pasture and hay crops. We feel that the income lost during the year the forage crop is becoming established is too big a price to pay for a stable livestock industry, and we forget that it took nature thousands of years to build up the soil and provide good grass cover. Hence, we are impatient because it takes us 12 months to produce a forage crop that

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Wheat Versus Forage Crops (cont'd)

is far superior to nature's grassland." A cultivated forage crop usually means the difference between 300 and 500 pounds of native grass per acre in the open Prairie and at least 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of feed from a tame forage.

As a general rule Prairie farmers hate to use "grainland" for anything except grain production. They seem to feel that the good land is for grain and that only the poorest land should be used for forage crops. However, the difference in profits does not come from the difference in the two types of crops, but from management and from the types of soil on which these crops are grown.

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April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION COST STUDY RESULTS FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA

Information on costs incurred by farmers in north-central and north-eastern Alberta in 1974-75 when transporting their grain to country elevators and other primary grain collection points has been released by Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch. Results for the southern and south-central regions have already been released.

The information was collected in a survey carried out by the production economics branch in co-operation with the Alberta Wheat Pool under a study that was initiated in response to a desire expressed by farmers and elevator and railway company personnel for changes in grain transportation systems.

Results obtained from the study, known as the Grain Transportation Costs Study, are regarded as only an indication of farmer's transportation costs because the sample group in each region was relatively small. "However, they are expected to prove useful as guidelines for future action," says Nabi Chaudhary, agricultural transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture.

In the north central region, the survey showed 47 grain trucks carried 324,658 bushels of grain to country elevators and other sales outlets and provided 3,535,480 bushel-miles of service.

The average total grain transportation costs per farm truck were calculated to be $424.93 for the year 1974-75. Total fixed costs per truck were $194.39 or just under 46 per cent of total grain transportation costs.

Depreciation was the largest cost component, accounting for nearly 29 per cent ($122.07) of total costs. It was followed by driver labor, responsible for just over 15 per cent ($64.47), and other hauling labor, responsible for about 12.5 per cent ($53.06).

Variable costs such as lubrication, repairs, tires and batteries, and fuel accounted for 26.6 per cent (113.01) of total grain transportation costs. Fixed costs such as interest on investment, insurance and license fee were responsible for about 17 per cent ($72.32) of total grain transportation costs.

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Grain Transportation Cost Study Results (cont'd)

Calculated unit costs, higher than those for southern and south central regions, were 10.5¢ per bushel, about 0.9¢ per bushel-mile, and 70¢ per grain-mile.

In the north eastern region the survey showed 39 grain trucks carried 256,152 bushels of grain to country elevators and other sales outlets and provided 2,661,984 bushel-miles of service.

The average total grain transportation costs per farm truck were calculated to be $315.23 for the year 1974-75. Total fixed costs per truck were $91.43 or about 29 per cent of total grain transportation costs.

The major cost components for this region were driving labor, accounting for about 25 per cent ($77.87), and other hauling labor, responsible for just under 18 per cent ($56.45). These two costs items were followed by depreciation, responsible for about 17 per cent ($53.09).

Variable costs such as lubrication, repairs, tires and batteries, and fuel accounted for over 28 per cent ($89.48) of total grain transportation costs. Fixed costs such as interest on investment, insurance, and license fee were responsible for about 12 per cent ($38.34) of total grain transportation costs.

Calculated unit costs were 7.8¢ per bushel, about 1¢ per bushel-mile and 87¢ per grain mile.

Higher costs for north central and north eastern regions have been attributed to a lower volume of grain transported to country elevators and other sales outlets compared to south and south central regions.

According to Mr. Chaudhary, computer analysis of responses received from the north-western and Peace River regions of Alberta is in progress, and results will be published before the final report is released this summer. It will contain information on the individual regions as well as on the province as a whole.

Further information can be obtained from:

G. Nabi Chaudhary
Agricultural Transportation Economist
Production Economics Branch
#303, 9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8
(403) 427-5395

April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLASTIC PIPE FOR FARM WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Flexible polyetheylene (PE) pipe is the most suitable and commonly used type of plastic pipe for farm water distribution systems. It is light, easy to install, resistant to most chemicals under normal temperatures and relatively inexpensive.

Andrew Livingstone, Alberta Agriculture's engineering technologist at Barrhead, says anybody purchasing plastic pipe for water distribution should make sure it is intended for water. "Some PE pipe is manufactured for gas distribution and could prove harmful if used for water," he says. He also recommends buying CSA approved plastic pipe to ensure that it will withstand its rated pressure and that it is of consistent quality.

PE pipe is available in low, medium and high density. The low density pipe is recommended for farm use because it is more resistant to damage than the others and more flexible. It is also easier to join than the other types.

Selection of the correct diameter of pipe depends upon vertical lift, maximum flow rate and the length of the distribution system. As the flow rate and length of the systems increase, the diameter of the pipe must be increased to keep friction loss to a minimum.

Information on pipe sizing, pressure rating and pipe connections can be obtained from the Agri-Fax publication "Plastic Pipe for Farm Water Distribution". It is available from the publications office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HOME SAFETY WEEK - APRIL 24-30

More than 2,000 accidental deaths occur in Canadian homes every year, a figure surpassed only by traffic fatalities.

According to statistics compiled by the Alberta Safety Council's Home Safety Committee, most of these deaths are caused by falls, fires and/or explosions, suffocation and poisonings. Falls are apparently responsible for over a third of home accidents and for 14 per cent of all fatal accidents in Canada. Seven out of every 10 fatal falls in the home happen to people over 65.

To guard against fatal falls, the Home Safety Committee recommends putting night lights in the bedrooms of elderly people and installing handrails on all stairways. It also suggests using safety gates to prevent small children from falling down stairs and anchoring scatter rugs to the floor with rubber matting, an anti-skid coating or tacks.

Fire

If you want to avoid a fire in your home never use frayed electrical cords, never overload an electrical circuit and never replace a fuse with a coin. Do not leave a small electrical appliance plugged in when it is not in use, make sure that large electrical appliances are properly grounded, and avoid using extension cords whenever possible. If you have to use an extension cord make sure that it is the correct gauge of wire for the appliance it is to be used for, and do not use light household extension cords outside.

Never use water to put out a grease fire on the kitchen stove. Use a lid or a large wet towel or put baking soda on it. Never smoke in bed. Install a smoke detector in your home. The Home Safety Committee reports that many lives would be saved every year if all homes were equipped with smoke detectors.

Suffocation

Statistics show that about 250 children die in Canada every year from suffocation. Most of these deaths could have been prevented with a little more care. The Home

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Alberta Home Safety Week - April 24-30 (cont'd)

Safety Committee suggests, for example, that babies be given only rattles with handles too large to put in their mouths, and that they not be given pillows in their cribs. The committee also stresses that babies should never be left to feed themselves from a bottle propped up in their crib. They should always be held when fed.

Poisoning

Keep medicines and pills out of reach of children. Never leave them on a bedside table or dresser. Do not store cleaning products near food or where small children can reach them, and never put toxic substances in containers which might be used for food or drink. Keep them in clearly labelled containers. Never dispose of unwanted or unused drugs in the garbage -- always put them down the toilet.

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CORRECTION:

The dates for "The North American Lily Society's" 30th Annual International Lily Show to be held at the University of Saskatchewan are July 14-17 NOT July 17-19 as published in the list of Coming Agricultural Events (April 4th issue of "Agri-News").

The dates for "Provincial Weed Tour" to be held in County No. 24 Vermilion River, Vermilion are July 12-14 NOT July 6-8 as published in the list of Coming Agricultural Events (April 4th issue of "Agri-News").

April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELLING GOATS' MILK

If you are intending to sell goat's milk, you must first obtain a certificate of registration from Alberta Agriculture's dairy division.

According to Ed Bristow, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of dairy farm inspection, anybody who produces milk in Alberta, regardless of whether the milk comes from cows or goats, must obtain a certificate of registration before he can sell fluid milk. Fluid milk includes milk sold in bottles, cartons, plastic bags, etc.

The Alberta Board of Health regulations state that all premises where fluid milk is produced must comply with standards developed to ensure that the milk is safe, wholesome and produced under sanitary conditions. They also state that all raw milk (unpasteurized) must be tested to make sure that it is free from adulteration, produced by healthy animals and meets the quality standards of the particular market for which it is intended.

To help producers of both cow and goat milk meet these objectives, the dairy division provides a variety of services which include helping the producer plan and develop his enterprise and checking his milking equipment to make sure it is properly maintained and functioning efficiently. It also helps the milk producer interpret laboratory reports and assists him in correcting milk quality problems.

To obtain a certificate of registration, you should contact one of the following offices:

Dairy Division
50th Street & 51st Avenue
Provincial Building
Wetaskiwin, Alberta
Phone: 352-3306

Dairy Division
O.S. Longman Building
6909 - 116 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Phone: 427-2450

Dairy Division
#502 - J.J. Bowlen Building
620 - 7th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Phone: 261-6161

Dairy Division
Box 330
Vermilion, Alberta
Phone: 853-2811

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Selling Goats' Milk (cont'd)

Dairy Division
Agriculture Center
Lethbridge, Alberta
Phone: 329-5151

Dairy Division
Box 7777
Fairview, Alberta
Phone: 835-2268

Dairy Division
4747 Ross Street
Provincial Building
Red Deer, Alberta
Phone: 343-5111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1977 ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS PROGRAM

June 21st, 22nd and 23rd are the dates for the third annual Alberta Pork Congress which will be held at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds in downtown Red Deer.

The program is as follows:

June 21st

8 a.m. Judging Competition (Kinex Bldg.)

10 a.m. Industrial and Consumer Displays (Kinex)

6 p.m. Swine Display (Kinex)

1:30 p.m. Seminars (chalet)

- Farrowing Systems (Dr. E. Stevermer, Iowa State University)
- My Farrowing Setup (Producer Panel)
- The Herd Sire (Dr. E. Swierstra, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Lethbridge)

5 p.m. Pork Barbecue (chalet)

June 22nd

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Industrial and Consumer Displays (Kinex)

Other Industry Meetings - Alberta Swine Breeders, etc.

1:30 p.m. Seminars (chalet)

- Industry Image and Production Efficiency (Dr. E. Stevermer)
- Genetic Changes in Canadian Swine (Dr. H. Fredeen, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Lacombe)

5:30 p.m. Prize Carcass Display (Red Deer Lodge)

6:30 p.m. Pork Banquet (lodge) - Guest Speaker - Hon. Otto Lang, Federal Minister of Transportation

9:30 p.m. Prize Carcass Sale (lodge)

10 p.m. Dance (lodge) - Blue Willow

June 23rd

10 a.m - 6 p.m. Industrial and Consumer Displays (Kinex)

10 a.m. Judging of Live Barrow Groups (Kinex)

11 a.m. Judging of Breed Classes (Kinex)

1 p.m. All Breed Sale

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Alberta COMMUNICATIONS

1977 Alberta Pork Congress Program (cont'd)

Pre-registration is now open - write to Secretary, Alberta Pork Congress, Box 5002, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5Y5.

Comments

- Industrial display space is 50 per cent larger than last year.
- The consumer display will be in the industrial display area, with a by-product display.
- Seminars will involve a producer panel.
- A press cook-out competition is planned.
- The pork barbecue will feature delicious thick pork chops.
- The pork banquet will be a buffet featuring a wide variety of pork dishes and suckling pig.
- There will be a pork queen competition again this year.

If you are in the pork production business, if you deal with pork producers, if you are interested in the pork industry, or if you like eating Alberta pork, come to the 1977 Alberta Pork Congress,June 21-23.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION APPOINTED

John G. Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointment of Ralph Berkan to the position of associate director of the extension division. This position was previously held by Howard Fulcher who has transferred to the farm development division.

Mr. Berkan will be responsible for recruiting and over-all training programs for district agriculturists, including the administration of the division's in-service staff development programs. He will also play a major role in inter-divisional liaison concerning field operations, program administration and recommendations on farm trends as they affect district extension services.

A native of Semans, Saskatchewan, Mr. Berkan attended high school and university in his home province, graduating from the University of Saskatchewan in 1966 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). Following graduation, he joined Alberta Agriculture as an assistant district agriculturist at Camrose. Upon completion of his training in August, 1967, he was transferred to Provost where he became the first district agriculturist to operate from the then newly established Provost extension office. He was district agriculturist at Provost the time of his present appointment.

During his years of service with Alberta Agriculture, Mr. Berkan has worked on a number of special projects. He was a member of the provincial committee that developed the "Alberta Farm Account Book" and a member of the provincial test team of Version III of CanFarm. Recently, he served on the divisional committee that developed the DACUM chart for district agriculturists. In addition, he has been heavily involved with local community affairs in Provost where he served as a municipal councillor for 2 1/2 years and as secretary-treasurer of the Provost and district chamber of commerce for 5 years. He was also the chairman of the supervisory committee for the Provost credit union for 6 years.

Mr. Berkan has taken post-graduate courses in extension, supervisory management and program planning at Colorado State University's summer extension school.

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April 18, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's extension director, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of A.R. (Jerry) Jones to the position of senior district agriculturist at Taber.

A native Albertan, Mr. Jones returns to district agriculturist duties in southern Alberta, where he served at Lethbridge and Taber from 1955 to 1964, and he returns to this province after having spent four years in Ottawa as project co-ordinator with Agriculture Canada's economics branch. Before this he held the position of assistant chief of Agriculture Canada's farm management division. He was head of Alberta Agriculture's farm management branch from 1964 to 1970.

Mr. Jones obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta, with a major in animal science, and his M.Sc. (agricultural economics) from Michigan State University in the U.S. Prior to attending university, he served with the Royal Canadian Army for six years.

A keen student of agriculture and always an enthusiastic proponent of practical applied farm business management, Mr. Jones has received credit for about 60 publications in a diverse area of agriculture. He has also been credited with having successfully recruited many leading farmers and business men for extension and farm management programs.

As senior district agriculturist at Taber, Mr. Jones will join forces with Murry Wilde in serving one of the province's most diversified and intensively farmed districts. He will also assume regional responsibilities as project leader in farm management programming and as a liaison with agri-business in agricultural development. His interests and experience cover the small and family farm through to commercial farms and the secondary agricultural industry.

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AGRI-NEWS

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April 25, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 25, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ON ALBERTA'S DAIRY POLICY

In a recent statement on Alberta's dairy policy, provincial minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, said that the dairy industry should not suffer nearly the disruption that occurred last year, that all Alberta's industrial milk producers will be given a quota at least equal to that of last year and that a number of producers will be able to benefit from an increased amount of quota.

Last year the consumption of fluid milk in Alberta increased by a surprising 6 per cent, considerably more than in any other province in Canada. This has permitted increases in fluid milk quotas and a resulting availability of increased market share quota for distribution.

Mr. Moore explained that the priority of distribution of new quota will be to small producers who are not currently operating viable farm units. The first sector that will benefit will be that of the small cream producer. During the past dairy year, the cream producer could only participate in the dairy industry by purchasing quota from other producers. The dairy board recognized the problems that this policy created, and consequently in this dairy year a new cream producer will be allotted on deliveries a market sharing quota for the amount of deliveries up to 300 pounds of butterfat.

According to Mr. Moore, extra consideration will be given to those cream producers who are currently delivering less than 300 pounds. They will be allocated quota on the same basis as new producers to a maximum amount of 300 pounds.

For those cream producers with quota of less than 10,000 pounds and wishing to convert to industrial milk production, a special policy is being introduced. Upon application to the Alberta Dairy Control Board, a cream producer will be allotted on delivery additional quota up to 10,000 pounds of butterfat. This will mean that many marginal cream producers will be able to develop viable full time dairy operations.

Mr. Moore pointed out that this benefit will also be extended to industrial milk producers with market share quota of less than 10,000 pounds. Upon application, the Alberta

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Statement on Alberta's Dairy Policy (cont'd)

Dairy Control Board will provide for additional market share quota on deliveries up to 10,000 pounds of butterfat.

Exact details as to application procedures for obtaining additional quota will be mailed directly to each of Alberta's dairy producers.

Mr. Moore also said that if the small number of producers who suffered financial difficulties because of the past dairy policy do not qualify for special consideration in the preceding categories, they may consider contacting the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation for funds to purchase dairy quota. Of further interest to these producers will be the dairy development loans which will provide up to $12,000 of guaranteed funds. Partnerships and corporations may receive up to $24,000. These loans include an interest rebate of $70 per $1,000 of loan for the first three years. These funds can be used for constructing, altering, or repairing of buildings, for purchase of dairy equipment, or for purchase of quota. Producers are advised to discuss their proposals with dairy inspectors or district agriculturists.

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April 25, 1977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURFACE LEASES

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, has advised farmers and other landowners that surface leases entered into after January 1, 1972, are not automatically reviewed and up-graded on the fifth anniversary date.

Mr. Moore went on to say that legislation, which became effective January 1, 1972, provides for a review as to the rate of compensation every five years where annual compensation is provided. The Surface Rights Act specifies certain requirements in order to qualify for a review of compensation established either by a right-of-entry order or a privately negotiated contract after January 1, 1972. It is important that farmers or land owners check the original date of (a) the right-of-entry order or (b) the privately negotiated contract. This date is called the anniversary date.

Landowners or companies desiring to have the rate of compensation reviewed are required to notify the other party during the last three months prior to the anniversary date in the fifth year. Such notice must be in writing and given to the other party preferably by registered mail. After such notice is given, the company and the landowner must enter into negotiations in good faith with respect to the rate of compensation to be paid during the term of the following five years.

In the case of surface rights board orders, if the two parties agree on a new rate of compensation, both parties must notify the Surface Rights Board in writing of the rate agreed upon and the board shall then vary the compensation order accordingly. If the two parties cannot agree as to the amount, the party seeking the review may make application to the board for a review of the rate of compensation, but not later than the end of the three month period following the expiration of the fifth year of the term of the compensation order.

In the case of a surface lease, or privately negotiated contract, where the company and the landowner agree on a new rate of compensation under the surface lease, the

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Surface Lease (cont'd)

company and the landowner shall amend the lease in accordance with their new agreement and enter into a new lease. If the two parties cannot agree on a new rate of compensation, the party desiring a review may make an application to the Surface Rights Board for a review of the rate of compensation, but not later than the end of the three month period following the expiration of the fifth year of the term of the surface lease.

Mr. Moore went on to say that if the first five-year time period centering around the anniversary date is missed, the next chance for a review will be in a period of three months prior to the anniversary date in the tenth year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INNISFAIL LAMB PLANT TO CONTINUE OPERATION

Marvin Moore, minister of Alberta Agriculture, has announced that the Lamb Processors Co-Op Ltd. at Innisfail has formally accepted the proposal under which the Alberta government is assuming all assets of Lamb Processors Co-Op Ltd. and the responsibility for the liabilities of the co-op.

Outstanding producer payments of approximately $90,000 have been arranged, and most farmers should have received cheques by now.

It is expected that the province will take over the plant management on April 25. The objective of the government's action is to ensure continued operations and a supply of lambs for processing.

John G. Hanmer, a person with extensive experience in the meat packing industry, has been engaged as an interim manager. Immediate planning for the handling of the 1977 lamb crop is proceeding.

The government is continuing to pursue possible arrangements with experienced processors which will see the continuation of this sheep slaughtering facility in Western Canada.

Mr. Moore also expressed his appreciation for the co-operation that has been extended by the Lamb Processors Co-Op Ltd.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H CLUBS TO CLEAN-UP HIGHWAYS

Three Alberta government departments will combine with the province's 520 4-H clubs to clean up some 6,000 miles of primary highway on May 7, according to Dr. Hugh M. Horner, deputy premier and minister of transportation.

The departments involved are agriculture, environment and transportation. The spring cleaning project will immediately precede "pitch-in '77", an outdoors unlittered Alberta government-sponsored, province-wide clean-up campaign scheduled for the week of May 9-15.

"Each 4-H club will be paid $8 per mile for picking up garbage along both sides of the highway to a maximum of 10 miles of primary highway," Dr. Horner said. Cost for the project is estimated at about $40,000 in revenue for the clubs. Alberta transportation maintenance branch crews will provide minimum supervision and the bags and trucks necessary to haul away the garbage.

"For safety reasons, the program will not involve four-lane highways," Dr. Horner said. "By the same token, we ask all motorists travelling primary highways on Saturday, May 7, to exercise extreme caution."

All returnable bottles and cans may be kept by the club in charge. Garbage will be placed at various central points along the highway system for pick-up by maintenance branch crews.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Alberta's agricultural minister, Marvin Moore, has announced the awarding of a $27,500 grant to the Wandering River Agricultural Society and a $50,000 grant to the Okotoks Agricultural Society.

Formed in 1974, the Wandering River Agricultural Society has constructed a multi-purpose building which includes a curling rink, waiting room, kitchen, meeting rooms and library. The new building provides the Wandering River community residents with recreational facilities and a meeting place for agricultural activities.

The Okotoks Agricultural Society, which was established in 1957 and had been providing area residents with a variety of agriculturally oriented activities, is now planning recreational, horse and sports facilities for the community.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTING A DUGOUT

If you are planning to construct a dugout, there are a number of factors you should consider before choosing a site.

One of these is available drainage into the dugout. The drainage area requirement will vary in size from one acre per 100 square feet of dugout surface in southern Alberta to half an acre in the Peace River region. Hayland and woodland usually provide the best quality water. Water from other areas may contain such impurities as mud, silt, fertilizer, herbicides and manure.

To reduce evaporation and other losses, a dugout should be located in a natural depression. A natural depression also tends to accumulate more snow, an important source of water for most dugouts. Another good location for a dugout is close to a water course.

It is important to determine the texture of the soil before digging a dugout. This can be done by making test holes at the four corners and in the centre of the proposed excavation. The holes should extend to approximately five feet below the bottom of the proposed dugout. A dugout constructed in clay soil will be water tight, but one located in coarse silts or sand will usually have to be sealed.

Distance from intended point of use is another consideration. A dugout should be as close to this point as possible to minimize the cost of pipes, power and pumping equipment. However, a dugout cannot be closer than 25 feet to a septic tank, 50 feet to a sewage disposal field, 50 feet to a corral, 100 feet to a cesspool or sewage mounds, 150 feet to a sewage ejector and 300 feet to a sewage lagoon.

To prevent erosion of the dugout banks and subsequent siltation, it is a good idea to seed the banks and a 100-foot strip around the dugout to a grass mixture containing 80 per cent timothy and 20 per cent alsike clover. The dugout should also be fenced to prevent the entry of children and livestock. A 20 per cent porous fence on the windward side, or a solid fence on the leeward side, will help to ensure good snow accumulation during the

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Constructing a Dugout (cont'd)

winter. If there are trees in the vicinity of the dugout,they should be kept at least 100 feet from its banks to prevent the water from becoming contaminated by leaves.

A leaflet entitled "Dugouts for Farm Water Supplies" shows how to calculate the amount of water you will require from your dugout and contains a table showing the volumes of different sizes of dugouts. It is available from district agriculturists and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POCKET GOPHER CONTROL

Did you know that about half the municipalities in Alberta have a mechanical bait dispenser or burrow builder which farmers can use for getting rid of pocket gophers (often miscalled moles) in their hay and pasture fields.

Cliff Barrett, Alberta Agriculture's animal pest control specialist, reports that timing is very important for successful results with one of these machines. "Incorporation of the bait into the burrows," he says, "should be done before taproot growth gets started in the spring, but not until the surface soil moisture is adequate to ensure good burrow construction. If the burrow collapses during the operation, the bait will probably be covered by soil or plant roots may be exposed which could be preferable to the bait."

According to Mr. Barrett, field tests conducted for Alberta Agriculture in the southern part of the province showed that 47 to 69 per cent control can be achieved with 0.35 per cent strychnine on hulled oats which are dispensed at the rate of 2.5 kilograms per hectare (2.2 pounds per acre). However, for really good control a higher strychnine rate, like 4 quarts of oats to 10 ounces of 5 per cent strychnine, is required.

Since bait strength is computed on a weight to weight basis of toxicant to carrier, the following table will help in the preparation of baits.

Pounds of grain per bushel (Use clean grain)	Number of quarts of grain (Imperial) used per 10 oz. can of 5 per cent strychnine.
34	4
40	3.4
44	3.1
48	2.8
52	2.6
56	2.4
60	2.3

"In view of some recent findings," says Mr. Barrett, "some strengthening of 0.35 per cent commercial bait is suggested. One can (10 ounces) of liquid 2 per cent strychnine added to 4 quarts of commercial (0.35 per cent) prepared bait would bring its strength close

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Pocket Gopher Control (cont'd)

to that suggested in the above table." This procedure must be sanctioned by the agricultural fieldman in the area because of government restrictions on bait strength.

Oats apparently make a very acceptable bait for pocket gophers, but when possible they should be hulless. Otherwise the pocket gophers will hull the oats, thereby reducing their level of toxicity. The hulless oats should be as free as possible of dust and cracked material to avoid wasting the toxicant.

Mr. Barrett says both cracked and whole corn have been used as carriers. He suggests that they be tried in areas of the province, like Lethbridge, where corn is relatively cheap.

Although strychnine is the only pesticide registered for pocket gopher control to date, field tests conducted in 1975 and 1976 for Alberta Agriculture show that 0.015 per cent trichlorophacinone is equally effective. "Further evaluations on this and other potential toxicants by Alberta Agriculture personnel are planned for this year," Mr. Barrett says.

He suggests that after a field has been treated with a burrow builder to control pocket gophers, it is a good idea to bait by hand any burrows that are still inhabited or to set traps to catch any surviving gophers.

Further information on obtaining bait, a burrow builder and pocket gopher control in general as well as information on controlling other pests and coping with special problems, can be obtained from agricultural fieldmen.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APIARY REGISTRATION

May 15 is the deadline for apiary registration in Alberta.

Provincial apiarist, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, points out that anybody who keeps bees in this province is required under the Alberta Bee Act to register his apiary. Dr. Soehngen also stresses that it is very important when registering your apiaries to give the correct legal land description of each site so that disease inspectors can find your colonies with a minimum of wasted time. You can obtain this information from the farmer on whose land your colonies are situated or from the county or municipal district office. If you have not yet decided on all your locations, you are asked to list on your registration form those which you are most likely to use.

Previously registered beekeepers will be receiving their registration forms in the mail. Those who have not kept bees in the past can get a registration form from the Supervisor of Apiculture, O.S. Longman Regional Laboratory, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESOURCE ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Charles Pei, head of Alberta Agriculture's resource economics branch, has announced the appointment of Robert A. Prather to the position of resource economist.

As resource economist, Mr. Prather will be responsible for developing continuously updated information about the natural resource base of the agricultural industry in Alberta. In this connection he will design information systems and economic studies for monitoring the land and water resources used by agriculture, and he will maintain an inventory of the changes that occur within the provincial economy that affect agricultural natural resources.

A native Edmontonian, Mr. Prather obtained his B. Sc. (food science) from the University of Alberta in 1972. Two years later he completed an M.Sc. (agricultural economics) at the same university. His major was resource economics. While studying for his M.Sc., he did some consulting work with Halgard Investment Ltd. on the impact of the 1974 tax revisions on various types and sizes of farm operations in Alberta.

Following graduation, Mr. Prather worked as an economist/statistician with Statistics Canada where he was in charge of the semi-annual general agricultural survey. Since 1975 he has been employed by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch as an agrologist/statistician.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASTE NOT WANTED

by Betty Birch
Alberta Agriculture's
District Home Economist at Stettler

We live in a great disposable society. Everything from the daily newspaper to the baby's diapers go in the garbage after one use. In areas such as we live, garbage doesn't present a major problem, but you can imagine large cities and the tons and tons of material thrown out each day!

Everyone should be conscious of the problem of excess garbage. There are two things an individual can do. You can buy things that don't have a lot to waste (and probably save yourself some money!) or you can make better use of the things you do buy.

Packaging is an area of big waste. Easter treats were a prime example. Large fancy open and shut boxes with cellophane windows and plastic supports housed tiny hollow chocolate bunnies and chickens. Flashy packaging on any food item is costly and usually unnecessary.

Do you need to use all the paper towelling you do, or would an old-fashioned washable tea-towel do the job?

You could start a compost heap in your garden and make use of food wastes.

Another good way to reduce garbage is to make use of it. Consider all the possibilities for cans, boxes and bottles.

Milk cartons make good containers for starting bedding plants. But what can you do with Pringle potato chip cans? All suggestions are welcome.

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